



# METRO BOOST IS 'GAME CHANGER'

Report by Peter Madeley

**A £250 million boost for local transport, extending the Midland Metro route to Dudley and Merry Hill, has been hailed as a 'game changer' by the borough's council leader.**

It followed the Prime Minister's announcement of plans for better transport links across the West Midlands in a bid to create thousands of jobs.

Dudley Council leader Councillor Patrick Harley hailed the decision as 'a real game changer' for the borough, saying it would create thousands of jobs locally.

On a visit to Birmingham on Monday Theresa May said she hoped to see further falls in unemployment across the region as a result of the scheme. Despite unemployment continuing to fall in recent months, the regional rate is still among the highest in the UK at 5.5 per cent.



PM met apprentices

Mrs May also said she was 'optimistic' that the region would be handed more powers under a second devolution deal.

The PM visited the EEF Technology Hub to meet apprentices with Chancellor Philip Hammond, Business Secretary Greg Clark and West Midlands Mayor Andy Street.

Mr Street said via Twitter: "The extension of the Midland Metro from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill has been a long time coming. This announcement means Dudley and Brierley Hill will be connected to the rail network for the first time since the 1960s."

Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman took to social media to say: "This will be a massive boost to Dudley town and Brierley Hill with the Dudley section open in 2022, Brierley Hill in 2023. It will unlock over 30,000 new homes and 865,900sqm of commercial floor-space, accommodating nearly 35,000 jobs."

The £250m transport boost is seen as the first move in a second devolution deal for the region, which the West Midlands Combined Authority has been pushing for.

Mrs May said: "We are already seeing, in the combined authority, in the Mayor, the difference that having that devolution can bring."

## STOLEN DIGGER CRUSHES MECHANIC'S RESTORED CAR



'This can't be happening' - Tyler Hambly with his BMW badly damaged in Netherton by a digger stolen from a nearby building site

A CAR enthusiast watched in horror as a stolen 24-ton JCB digger wrecked his restored BMW. The 96-plate BMW was saved from a scrapyard just three months ago and had since been restored.

Tyler Hambly, 25, has been left devastated after a thief ran over his pride and joy on Sunday evening. Mr Hambly, who lives on the Doultons Meadow estate in Netherton, said: "About half past six there was a massive raucous outside my home.

"As I've looked out the window a stolen digger from the site nearby drove over my car. I was stood there thinking this can't be happening.

"It was about 20 to 30 seconds, it pushed the car, it was like he actually aimed for it. He pushed it about 20ft up the road and then crushed the end of it.

The mechanic who works in Cradley Heath added: "I'm massive into my cars and I restore old stuff and this I have just saved from

the scrapyard. I bought it in August and I have spent the last three months fixing it all up."

The 24-ton vehicle, being used by builders working on the housing estate, smashed through a fence and then into the restored BMW. Following the incident a GoFundMe page was set up in a bid to raise money for the mechanic.

Police arrested a 38-year-old man from Wolverhampton.

## SKILLS

### Work set to begin on £30m university

PLANS for a £30 million university for engineers in Dudley will soon get under way with surveying work to begin by April.

Dudley College wants to offer degree level training in engineering, manufacturing and transport technology, providing skills needed by local firms.

The college has revealed it wants to start site investigation work on the proposed location of the university at the town's former railway station.

A funding bid for £64,400 is expected to be approved by members of the Black Country LEP, paving the way for work to start this financial year.

The centre will provide research and development laboratories to explore the future of transport, and aims to be open by 2021.

Black Country Consortium chief executive Sarah Middleton said: "This will provide specialist training facilities that respond directly to the needs of local industry."

## EVENT

### Monster time on the way at ale fair

BEER enthusiasts are ready for a monster time at the 32nd Dudley Winter Ales Fair at Dudley Town Hall this weekend, which celebrates Dudley-born Frankenstein film director James Whale.

Organisers from Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale have chosen to celebrate the achievements of the former theatre director who found fame in Hollywood during the 1930s with such classic movies as Frankenstein, The Bride of Frankenstein and The Invisible Man. This year marks the 60th anniversary of his death.

'The Monster' prowled the streets to publicise the fair, running from 5.30pm to 11pm today (Thursday), noon to 11pm on Friday and noon until the beer runs out on Saturday. There will be more than 80 real ales. The event supports Dudley branch of Prostate Cancer UK and The Samaritans.

## INSIDE LIONS ROARING TO THE TOP



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# Thousands flock to lights fantastic



Pop stars turn on the lights at Merry Hill

CHRISTMAS is officially here for revellers as thousands gathered to watch dazzling festive light switch-ons.

Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Halesowen and Blackheath got lit up as hundreds braved the cold to enjoy live entertainment and festivities.

Pop band The Vamps brought the house down when they gave a special concert for adoring Black Country fans at Merry Hill in Dudley on Saturday night.

The band performed an exclusive show for 600 lucky fans at the shopping centre before flicking the switch on the Christmas lights. This followed performances by X Factor singer Fleur East, Union J and Danny Dearden.

Vamps frontman Brad Simpson, from Birmingham,

said: "It is always great to perform back in the Midlands, we are happy to be here and are looking forward to bringing Christmas in with the crowd."

"It was great to meet our fans before the show too, it really makes you appreciate how much your music can help others or just how much they enjoy it."

Rob Pickersall, marketing manager for intu Merry Hill, said: "It was great to welcome The Vamps, they can be a real inspiration to the young people here."

Christmas arrived in Halesowen as hundreds flocked to Somers Square in Halesowen to see the decorations sparked into life by Romsley army veteran David Watson, who won gold at the Invictus Games. Another special guest was X Factor and Celebrity Big Brother star Stevi Ritchie

# Man fell to his death through rotten stairs

**A PENSIONER died after falling through a rotten staircase at his Black Country home and suffocating when landing face down, an inquest heard.**

Police officers discovered 67-year-old Mervyn Parkes' body in his Cradley home after his cousin reported him missing.

They entered the property on Hillcrest Avenue on October 31 where he was found face down, Black Country Coroner's Court was told.

Assistant coroner Laura Nash said his cause of death was down to 'positional and traumatic asphyxia', while hypothermia was also a contributing factor.

His cousin, who was his only close living relative, called police after she had not heard from him in a while.

Mr Parkes, born in Stourbridge, lived on his own and was retired.

Police found he had fallen through a rotten staircase and believed his body had been there for some time, said Ms Nash.

## Ladders

She commented how officers had described his house as being in an unkempt condition.

Mr Parkes had been using a set of step ladders as a result of the rotten staircase, the inquest heard.

Ms Nash said: "On the balance of probability I put his cause of death as accidental. His cause of death is down to positional and traumatic asphyxia and hypothermia."

"Police attended his address after his cousin raised concern that she had not heard from him for a while.

"Police could see on arrival circumstances that he had fallen through a rotten staircase.

His landing position meant he suffocated and could not breathe.

Hypothermia, a medical emergency when the body loses heat quicker than it can create it, also contributed to his death, the court was told.

## Doreen returns to meet market pals



Doreen signs copies of her DVD at Brierly Hill market with butcher Bruce Hodgkiss from Halesowen

SHE is known as 'a Lazy Cow' but kind-hearted Doreen Tipton was keen to bring love and laughter to traders and shoppers at Brierly Hill Market.

Doreen, who started out life as an internet video star thought up by Quarry Bank writer and filmmaker David Tristram, visited

the market on High Street as part of her 'grand tour' of the area as she shot scenes for Doreen's Black Country DVD earlier in the year.

On her return last Thursday, she spent hours greeting stallholders and shoppers. Caretaker Frank Chamberlain said: "It went really well and we had quite a crowd..."

Doreen - Walsall actress Gill Jordan - is touring new show Doreen: Rise of the Yam-Yam before she takes up residence at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre for panto Jack and the Beanstalk. She won the best newcomer panto award for her role as The Lazy Empress in Aladdin, the Grand's previous panto.

# Cannabis is found during crackdown on illicit cigs

A CANNABIS farm was discovered in Dudley during a crackdown on the sale of illegal tobacco.

A haul of more than 50,000 illegal or counterfeit cigarettes, as well as the surprise find of around 1,000 cannabis plants, were seized during raids by Dudley Council's trading standards team and West Midlands Police using trained tobacco detection dogs.

In the joint operation, the raids were carried out at properties in Dudley, Brierley Hill and Halesowen, along with a routine inspection in Stourbridge. At three properties they discovered tobacco, while at the Dudley premises three floors of cannabis plants were found.

Councillor Peter Miller, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "Through joint operations with partners and our own investigations we are working hard to stop the sale of illegal cigarettes. While our day of action was targeted at finding illegal tobacco, at one of the properties a large number of cannabis plants were found, which the police are investigating."

"Selling illegal tobacco is a crime and offenders need to know that they will face consequences. While all smoking is harmful, illegal tobacco is sold at low prices and without necessary health warnings which makes it easier for young smokers to get hooked."

## Police plea on violent robbery

POLICE are investigating a vicious crime last week when a 64-year-old man was tied up with wire and attacked during a robbery at a Lower Gornal pub.

Two masked men forced their way into the Black Bear pub in Deepdale during the early hours of Sunday, November 12.

They pushed their way into the pub after the owner went to investigate a noise. One of the men is believed to have threatened the man with a gun, while the other held a scalpel-like instrument.

The man was severely assaulted, tied with wires and put into a cabinet, before the men made off with a quantity of cash between 3am and 4am.

Police are continuing to investigate and anyone with information is asking to call police on 101.

## Carol singers at fair

ST Chad's Roman Catholic Church in Sedgley is holding its Christmas fair in the parish hall, off High Holborn, on Saturday, December 2, from 12 noon to 2pm.

The choir from St Chad's RC Primary School will be singing carols.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Further delays as lights remain

TEMPORARY three-way traffic lights are to remain in Pensnett until the week before Christmas as 'critical' work on a £6.3 million road improvement scheme continues.

Birds Meadow and Bradley Street will remain closed at junctions with High Street.

The lights will remain in operation at the junction of High Street and High Oak, with drivers warned to expect delays.

Motorists will also not be able to turn right into Tansey Green Road from this week, with water works taking place. Traffic will be diverted via Dreadnought Road.

### Pushchair was struck by lorry

A TODDLER was fortunate to escape with just a bump to her head after her pushchair was struck by a lorry in Dudley on Monday afternoon.

The accident happened on the A461 Duncan Edwards Way in Dudley.

An ambulance spokeswoman said: "When call assessors in our control room received 999 calls reporting a collision between a lorry and a pushchair, they feared the worst. Whilst ambulance staff found no other apparent injuries, they took the decision to convey the girl to Birmingham Children's Hospital with her mum."

### Careers fair to be hosted by MP

AN MP has organised a careers fair in Stourbridge. Margot James will host the event at the Glasshouse College on Thursday, November 30.

It is part of the Stourbridge MP's Raising Aspirations programme.

The event will take place from 4.30pm to 6pm. Businesses confirmed to attend include Barclays, Jaguar Land Rover, Virgin Media, Dudley NHS Group, Dudley Council and West Midlands Ambulance Service.

To attend email [margot.james.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:margot.james.mp@parliament.uk) or call (01384) 370574.

### Time limit for online park consultations

TIME is running out for borough residents who use Stevens Park, Quarry Bank, who want to take part in consultation about the future of the park.

Following first phase agreement by the heritage lottery fund, Dudley Council is now looking at moving the project onto the next phase.

The online questionnaire can be found at [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk) and should be completed by no later than Thursday, November 30.

## Footballing fraudster has been shown the red card

THE final whistle has been blown on a footballing fraudster who netted more than £14,000 in disability benefits despite banging in goals on a Sunday morning.

Gary 'Gaz' Wilson was told he had avoided jail 'by the narrowest of margins' when he was before the court for sentencing.

He racked up cash in Disability Living Allowance and Employment Support Allowance while at the same time, during November 2012 and May last year, the 30-year-old 'prolific' striker from Bilston was 'turning out for Sunday league teams.

But the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) cried foul after filming him playing.

Father-of-four Wilson, who once had a pro contract at Newcastle United, admitted two counts of benefit fraud as he had failed to inform the DWP his condition had improved.

His claims were not deemed false in the beginning and Walsall Magistrates Court heard he still suffered from back and hip problems.

Magistrates handed him an 18-week prison sentence suspended for two years.

Wilson, of St Chads Road, was also ordered to pay £135 costs and adhere to a three-month curfew.

He has so far paid back around £4,700 of the £14,568.63 that he was not entitled to.

## £24k for Albion skipper's medal

A GOLD medal awarded to former West Bromwich Albion captain Jesse Pennington sold for £24,000 at auction – three times the sum expected.

The West Bromwich-born left back, affectionately known as 'Peerless Pennington', was 36 when he led the Baggies to their historic first league title in 1920.

Before the sale at Graham Budd Auctions, Mr Pennington's Football League title medal had been expected to sell for between £6,000 and £8,000. It was the most valuable item among 50 of his mementoes, including medals, caps and gold pocket watch, which sold for a total of £82,870.

The 1920 FA Charity Shield medal sold for £6,500, the 1911-1912 FA Cup runners-up medal fetched £7,000.

## Family sought

THE Black County Coroner's Officer is hoping to get in touch with relatives of Anthony Ryan, aged 60, who was found dead in his home in Tansey Green Road, Brierley Hill, earlier this month. Call 0121 569 6990.

# Officer used a taxi to pursue crooks

A POLICE officer Tasered a burglary suspect, while another suspect was arrested at gunpoint during an incident in Stourbridge.

The officers had been called to reports of a burglary in Park Street when the drama unfolded at 10.15pm on Saturday.

West Midlands Police said an officer made her way through the front door of the property and into a corridor where she came face to face with a man who pointed what is believed to have been a gun at her.

She identified herself as a police officer but the suspect held the gun at chest height. Then, as the officer backed out of the house, the suspect escaped with a number of others.

But the officer was not giving up, on hearing from passers-by that the gang had escaped in a car she commandeered a taxi to follow them.

The led to her deploying the electro-shock weapon when one of the gang failed to comply with her instructions, while more officers arrived and arrested two other suspects.

An hour later, armed police arrested another suspect at gunpoint on Stourbridge High Street.

Officers are currently searching for the firearm and have examined a vehicle that was recovered, while specialist teams are carrying out searches.

Chief inspector Jack Hadley praised the female officer and said: "The officer demonstrated outstanding courage and professionalism to single-handedly

pursue these armed suspects in the correct manner. I am extremely impressed with her dogged commitment and tenacity."

A man aged 19 was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Another man, aged 21 was arrested on suspicion of burglary, while a third, aged 17 and from Stourbridge, was held on suspicion of burglary and carrying a bladed weapon. The fourth, a 17-year-old girl, was arrested on suspicion of burglary.

All four were being questioned by police..

Witnesses to the incidents are asked to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

# Mother warns reckless motorists to slow down

**'THINK before you get behind the wheel. Think of all the lives you could ruin.'**

Those are the words a mother whose son was lucky to survive a crash which left him in a three-week coma.

Nadine Plimmer, from Netherton, has issued the stark warning after her son Ryan, 22, suffered life-changing injuries following the crash earlier this year.

His friend, who was driving, was sent to prison for dangerous driving.

The 52-year-old mother, who now has to care for Ryan full-time, said: "My message to drivers is think before you act. Think of the consequences before you get behind the wheel.

"Think of all the lives you will ruin. It is not just the people in the car but their family and friends."

Her message comes as part of Road Safety Week, organised by charity Brake, which aims to promote awareness of road safety.

Ryan was a passenger in a car driven by Timothy Pascall, who was doing speeds of 83mph in a 30 limit on the wrong side of the road before the crash in Halesowen Road, Netherton, on March 19 around 5am.

The car – a stolen black Corsa – was travelling so fast it snapped a telegraph pole off at the base before crashing into a canal.

### Bleeding

Fellow passengers Lauren Lunn and Courtney Miller were seriously hurt while Pascall himself escaped injury.

Ryan was in hospital for six weeks after being airlifted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham with severe injuries. A main artery in his heart had been ripped and he suffered a fractured skull and a bleed on his brain. He ruptured his bladder, broke his collar bone, femur and arm, damaged his pelvis and suffered bleeding to the lungs.

Ryan was bound to a wheelchair after he came out of hospital, but his condition gradually improved and he moved to a walking frame and now is on crutches.

Nadine says her son will recover from the accident in time but he will never be the same again. He had to quit his job as a result of his injuries.



Netherton mother Nadine Plimmer, who cares for her son Ryan, said he was lucky to survive the horror crash

She said: "I think that must have been the worst day of my life on the day of the crash. I got a knock on the door at 6.40am by a police liaison officer who asked if I was Ryan Plimmer's mum. You start to think of the worst. He said 'your son has been involved in a serious crash'."

Ryan bares scars as a result of his injuries. He needed a total of six operations and doctors say he may need a hip replacement in the future.

Pascall hurtled towards a hump back bridge on Halesowen Road before the crash.

The Corsa, which was on false plates and had been stolen from Leamington a week earlier, careered across the road before crashing.

Pascall was handed a five-year jail sentence in June after pleading guilty to aggravated vehicle taking and causing serious injury by dangerous driving to both Ryan Plimmer and Courtney Miller.

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## £284k raised at seized car auction

TWENTY three BMWs and 17 Audis were among 180 seized vehicles which have been sold at auction by West Midlands Police.

The haul has raised £284,480 for the force and included one vehicle sold for £19,700.

Not all cars seized by the police were sold at auction, with 4,740 so far sent for crushing this year.

In total 8,091 have been seized from the roads in 2017, most for being uninsured.

The vehicles seized are part of a crackdown by police on uninsured and unlicensed drivers over the past 12 months.

## Moorhouse and Delaney on bill

COMEDIANS Justin Moorhouse and Gary Delaney will be performing in the next Live at the Civic comedy night at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in the new year.

The show is on February 17 with tickets £10 if booked by the end of this month from bhilcivic.co.uk

Moorhouse has appeared on the likes of Live At The Apollo and 8 Out Of 10 Cats, is a regular panellist on Five Live's Fighting Talk and has starred in Coronation Street. Gary Delaney, married to fellow comic Sarah Millican, is a Mock The Week regular.

The host will be Dudley rising star Wayne Beese.

## The self-employed are less stressed

PEOPLE working for themselves are less stressed, have a better work-life balance and better mental wellbeing.

AXA Business Insurance's stress index survey found being on call 24/7 and fluctuating monthly incomes were the major twin bugbears for the self-employed. It found 78 per cent were stressed to some extent compared to nine out of 10 in employment. They are also three times less likely to say they deal with 'difficult' people as part of daily work.

## Rock legends Iron Maiden back in Brum

LEGENDARY rockers Iron Maiden return to Birmingham next year.

Formed in 1975, the band have released 38 albums – including live recordings, EPs and compilations.

Their 16th studio album, The Book of Souls, was released in 2015.

Iron Maiden will play Birmingham's Genting Arena on August 7. Tickets will go on sale from 9am on November 24.

# Hashtag thanks to ambulance service

A HEART-WARMING hashtag has showcased respect for ambulance services after backlash to a rude note that was left on an emergency vehicle.

#BlueLightHappy has been used in tweets from people around the Black Country to thank paramedics for their work. A paramedic from the West Midlands Ambulance Service and the brains behind the hashtag, Robert Moore, explained that he wanted

to increase the morale of emergency services. He said: "I feel like there has been an increased number of reports of negative behaviour towards my colleagues.

"First there was the note, then another report of a colleague getting headbutted and a windscreen of a police car was crashed during a remembrance service. It felt like a bleak time for us. In the last month I have been

spat at and punched in the chest and these are things that shouldn't happen."

It follows an incident last week when Hassan Shabbir, aged 27, left a note on the windscreen of an ambulance telling them not to block his drive while paramedics were attending a man who was throwing up blood. He later apologised.

@999Tina wrote: 'I had a lovely

Dudley crew come out to me when necessary for me to take a trip up to Russells Hall! Recovering from surgery for Cauda Equina now! #team999 #BlueLightHappy' @J\_x Jazzle wrote: 'Amazing professionals who helped my sister when I found her semi-conscious at home #Blue-LightHappy. She made a full recovery from septicæmia, encephalitis and meningitis. Thank you for everything'

# Life sentence for father who murdered children

By Annabal Bagdi

**A KILLER father who smothered his young children with a petrol-soaked rag and then tried to kill his wife in a gas explosion at their home has been jailed for life.**

Endris Mohammed must serve a minimum 33 years for the murder of son Saros, eight, and daughter Leonor, six, as the judge told him: "You deliberately snuffed out their young lives."



Endris Mohammed – set his car alight

The 47-year-old also tried to murder his partner, Penil Teklehaimanot, by setting fire to the family home in Hamstead, Great Barr, and puncturing the gas pipes. But the fire didn't take hold and Ms Teklehaimanot was woken by a smoke alarm.

Mohammed – who originally came to the UK from Ethiopia – had denied the murders, claiming diminished responsibility allegedly caused by a depressive disorder.

But Mr Justice Andrew Gilbert said: "You designed to kill all three."

Passing sentence at Birmingham Crown Court, Mr Justice Gilbert told Mohammed: "This country has a long proud history of welcoming those from abroad who flee from persecution. Both of you had done so, and established your lives here in Birmingham, along with your two children.

"However that secure and apparently happy family life was destroyed by you."

The Judge said the children had trusted their father and were enjoying a half-term 'sleepover' downstairs at the house. "You repaid their trust in you by killing them," he added.

Mohammed smothered the two children with a petrol-soaked rag before starting a blaze.

The kitchen cooker was dislodged, leaking gas into the home, the back door locked and the key



Saros, aged eight and Leonor, aged six, who were murdered by their father

tossed onto the front lawn, denying the family any chance of escape, prosecutor Mr Jonas Hankin QC had told the court.

The bodies of the children were pulled from the house as it went up in flames by their mother and a neighbour, before being placed on the garden.

The trial heard how little Leonor was briefly revived at the scene but died later in hospital.

Mohammed was driving on the M6 as neighbours and paramedics battled to save his children, with his taxi later set on fire 40 miles away in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire.

The killer was found on the ground next to the

vehicle with serious burns and spent three months in hospital.

He fled in his Uber cab after killing Saros and Leonor in Holland Road on October 28 last year.

The taxi driver, who has set his car alight on the night of the killings, had admitted smothering his children.

Mohammed claimed he had decided to end his life over money worries but police found they could live off his wife's earnings as a care worker.

Mohammed was found guilty of two counts of murder and one of attempted murder after a two-week trial and will be 80 before he gets out of jail.

# Grass is cut and weeds go in council green boost

COUNCIL bosses are set to pump £500,000 into green care over the next two years, giving a boost to parks and open spaces.

Dudley Council has invested £150,000 this financial year and is proposing to spend a further £350,000 next year.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said the move is to reverse cuts which were made under the last administration, run by Labour.

She said: "We are investing £150,00 this financial year which will allow us to reinstate grass cutting at 125 sites and focus on weed removal on our highways. We are proposing a package of measures totalling £350,000 next financial year to improve maintenance of our parks and open spaces.

"We have listened to our residents and this proposed programme will improve overall standards of green care maintenance, restoring community pride and making the borough a more attractive, appealing place to live."

In September, it was revealed that the local authority had slashed its budget on grass-cutting services by £50,000 to make savings. But this move is reversing that measure.

A Dudley Council report highlighted how, for an urban authority, the Dudley borough is 'enriched with green space'.

Around 38 square miles of green space exists in the borough. Around 30 per cent of this is made up of parks, nature reserves and open space looked after by the council's Green Care team. Among areas improved is grassland in a cul-de-sac on the Northway in Sedgley.

## Woman sees off bogus salesmen

AN elderly woman whacked a pair of bogus callers with her stick when she suspected they were trying to trick their way into her home.

Two people approached the property on Fullbrook Road, in The Delves, trying to sell gold, but having been targeted before the woman questioned the culprits.

She rebuffed them with her stick when one of the suspects put his foot in the doorway.

West Midlands Police said it was now investigating after the woman reported the incident to them. It happened at around 2.30pm on November 10. Neighbourhood officers have been on the lookout for suspicious callers.

Anyone with information which could help the inquiry should call police on 101.

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# Only five weeks left to save the green belt

CAMPAIGNERS have warned there is 'only five weeks' to save Halesowen's countryside from being built on with new homes and industries.

A total of 22,000 properties and 300 hectares marked for industrial use are needed to meet the region's growing population by 2036, according to a strategy document.

Halesowen Abbey Trust believes Halesowen's rural areas will be the main target for developments unless Dudley Council steps in before a 'green built review' in January.

Mick Freer, head of the trust, said: "This is the most serious threat that I have experienced in my 40 years of volunteering for conservation."

The shortage of homes and industries have been identified as part of the Black Country Core Strategy, a planning document drawn up by Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton councils.

Mr Freer believes 6,000 homes and 75 hectares of industry will be found in the Dudley borough - around a quarter of the overall total - with many in and around Halesowen.

## Regeneration

Paul Mountford, head of planning and regeneration, said a 'green built review' is likely to start in January, where planners will identify potential sites. But Dudley Council has confirmed no land has been identified so far.

Mr Freer said: "If the councillors want to protect our countryside, they must instruct the planners to stop the contractors from searching for sites in our countryside. They have a maximum of five weeks to do so."

He claimed that areas at risk include Lapal, Coombeswood, Grange Hill, Hayley Green, Lutley, Oldnall and Foxcote.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said: "It is far too early to talk about specific locations. No firm decisions have been made."

# Commuters can help stop suicides

A CAMPAIGN has been launched urging people to intervene to help prevent railway suicides.

Commuters in the West Midlands have been asked to take part in the new suicide prevention campaign on the railways. This would involve them spotting vulnerable people and talking to them to interrupt their suicidal thoughts.

Samaritans, British Transport Police, Network Rail and the train operating companies have launched Small Talk Saves Lives to give travellers the confidence to act. See samaritans.org for more information.

# Aircraft overshoots runway and crashes



The crash scene at Halfpenny Green Picture: West Midlands Ambulance Service

TWO elderly men escaped serious injury when the light aircraft they were flying in overshoot a runway, ploughed through two hedges and crossed over a road before coming to a halt in a field.

A wing was ripped off the plane in the incident,, which happened at Halfpenny Green Airport, near Bobbington, at about 11.40am last Thursday.

The Piper Warrior plane is thought to have been landing when the dramatic accident happened. Airport firefighters were on the

scene almost immediately. An ambulance, a paramedic officer and the Midlands Air Ambulance from Cosford with a trauma doctor and critical care paramedic were all rushed to the scene.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "The aircraft overshoot runway 16, went through a hedge, over Water Lane and through another hedge coming to rest in a field.

"The left side wing was ripped off in the accident," said the spokesman. "Thankfully, neither of the occupants

were seriously hurt and both were able to get out of the aircraft.

"One man had suffered cuts and bruises plus a laceration to his head. After assessment by the doctor, he was taken to New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, by land ambulance as a precaution.

"The other man had a minor facial injury and chose not to go to hospital. "Considering what had happened to the aircraft, both men got away remarkably unscathed."

Nearby Water Lane was closed while the incident was dealt with.

# Knife-wielding robber is jailed for 11 years

A ROBBER who threatened a taxi driver with a knife in Dudley before attacking police officers who tracked him down has been jailed for 11 years

Khaleel Hart demanded £80 from the driver after being dropped off in Maple Road, Wrens Nest, a court heard.

The attack happened on February 1 this year on the estate in Dudley. Police were alerted to the robbery following an emergency call.

Within an hour police officers were able to trace the 22-year-old robber, at the Station



Khaleel Hart

Hotel, Castle Hill. When they arrived, police say Hart became aggressive. A court was told that during a struggle he assaulted four officers before he was taken into custody.

Detective Constable Dave Laver, of West Midlands Police, said he welcomed the sentence. He also praised the victim's bravery in calling police with a good description, enabling the arrest to happen soon after.

He said: "This was a horrifying experience for the taxi driver. He was simply going about his normal line of work. Officers were able to quickly establish where Hart may be and were able to arrest him within an hour."

## Substantial

"We remain committed to tackling crime involving weapons. This substantial sentence should serve as a strong warning about the risks of carrying a weapon.

"He showed a complete disregard for officers with his violent behaviour against those who seek to protect the public and uphold the law."

Hart, of no fixed address, was convicted of robbery after a hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court. He had also been sentenced to four months for the assaults at a previous court hearing.

## Boss swaps car seat for saddle



Andrew Hockedy who took part in the 969-mile cycle ride charity challenge despite three ops

A FUNDRAISER used peddle power to raise cash for charity after taking part in a gruelling bike ride from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Car dealership boss Andrew Hockedy swapped the driver's seat for the saddle as he completed the 969-mile cycle ride. But

it proved a tough challenge as he took part despite having three operations - two knee replacements and a double hip replacement - in the last 18 months.

Mr Hockedy, who is the managing director of the Stourbridge and Wolverhampton Volkswagen dealerships, was raising cash for

Marie Curie Cancer Care. The 55-year-old finished the ride in nine days raising £5,200.

Father-of-two Mr Hockedy said: "I did the ride for the first time when I was 50 and I've had a number of operations since then. But the toughest part was having to rough it in a tent."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Greek restaurant plan for old pub

WORK is now under way to turn an historic Sedgley pub into a new restaurant.

The Courthouse in Sedgley, which was built in the 19th century, is undergoing transformation work by its owners, with scaffolding now pictured around the outside.

Sedgley ward councillor Michael Evans said the establishment 'will either be a Greek restaurant or take-away, or restaurant and takeaway, but it will be definitely Greek'.

It will add to the list of eateries in the town centre, including various curry restaurants and the Delightful Desserts shop that recently opened.

The pub, which originally served as a courthouse, was due to go up for auction earlier this year but was bought beforehand.

### Catch a comedy Christmas panto

THE Comedy Theatre Group present new family pantomime for Christmas - Robin Hood and his Merry Maids.

It will be at Gig Mill Church Hall, Stourbridge, on December 15 at 7pm and December 16 at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets from Fair and Square, Market Street, Stourbridge or call (01384) 824766.

### Magical play is for all the family

STOURBRIDGE Theatre Company are staging their production of Tom's Midnight Garden from tonight (Thursday) to Saturday at Stourbridge Town Hall, with evening performances at 7.30pm and Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. See stourbridgetheatre.co.uk or call 0333 666 3366.

### Hundreds on march to honour war dead

UP TO 2,000 people turned out for a remembrance march in Gornal this year, say organisers.

The parade on Sunday, November 12, began at the Zoar Church in Bank Street and went to the war memorial in Temple Street.

The list of names of local service people who lost their lives was read out by Royal British Legion members.

### Festive church fair

A CHRISTMAS fair takes place at a church in Upper Gornal on Saturday.

The event is at St Peter's Church in Kent Street from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

Stalls will include books, a tombola and refreshments. Money raised will go toward church funds.

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Art price is manic Mundi for collector

WE'VE all been there at some time or other. You put a few quid away each month, build yourself a nice little nest egg, and then the mid-life crisis beckons.

It's just the way life goes. One minute you don't have two pennies to rub together, then suddenly you think to yourself "I've got a spare £360 million knocking about in the bank earning a paltry interest rate. I think I will spend it on a picture for the dining room instead."

Well that's what seems to have happened for one person at least. Last week, a tatty and not-particularly attractive painting that might be by Leonardo Da Vinci, fetched a staggering 450 million



Salvator Mundi, or saviour of the world

dollars at Christies in New York. That's £360 million in real money.

Now, I'm the first to admit I know nothing about fine art. When it comes to the masters, I'm a card-carrying philistine. I mean, The Mona Lisa? Yes,

it's better than I can do, but most things are. What differentiates that from, say, the work of a good art college lecturer?

Some years ago, I saw the celebrated paintings of Dudley by J W M Turner, which used to hang in the town's art gallery before it closed. I suppose I ought to say what an uplifting and enriching experience it was, but to be honest I thought they were a bit of a mess.

I certainly prefer the work of Black Country artist, and all-round nice guy, Graham Colbourne. But while Turner's works are priceless treasures, Graham donates his to local charities. Yet even among those in the know, the £360m painting has received a distinctly lukewarm reaction.

Jason Farago, of the New York Times called it "a proficient but not especially distinguished religious picture from turn-of-the-16th-century Lombardy, put through a wringer of restorations."

What does interest me, though, is that in 1958 the same picture sold for £45, or just under a grand when you allow for inflation. Back then, it was not thought to be by Da Vinci, so the inflated price is solely about who painted it, rather than any merit it might possess.

Which is just as well, because if I wanted that on my wall, I would not be crossing the Atlantic with my chequebook. I would cut the print out of the catalogue, and head down to Wilko for a frame.

## Sometimes best to leave smartphone in your pocket



Adrian Edmondson – and which Shakespearean role will be next for him?



Sathnam Sanghera – success from what was once there for many working-class kids



Theresa May – where politics is involved, there's no legal lock that can't be picked

# Paramedic: No need to shame notewriter

PARAMEDICS on an emergency call in Birmingham found this message on their ambulance: "You may be saving lives but don't park your van in a stupid place and block my drive." A paramedic posted the note on social media. But why? We pay paramedics to save lives, not to turn their job into photo-opportunities, nor to score points off members of the public who offend them. The paramedics could not have known the mental state of the person writing the note, nor the effects on him – or on neighbourhood relationships – of blabbing it online. It may be hard to believe in this Twitter-obsessed age but there are times when the best thing you can do with your smartphone is leave it in your pocket.

EARLY-morning mumbling. I heard a radio reporter describing an increase in the number of councils enforcing debts by the use of bayonets. Bailiffs, apparently.

IT'S excellent to see Adrian Edmondson getting rave reviews as the pompous old steward Malvolio in Twelfth Night at Stratford. I had lunch with him once in a wine bar in Wolverhampton and I can't recall an interview attracting so much interest, and obvious affection, from customers. It was inevitable that The Young Ones generation would eventually make it to the classical stage; Lenny Henry once told me his dream was to play Malvolio. And then he went off and did a memorable Othello instead. And what Shakespearean role will next beckon Mr Edmondson, still best remembered for those frenetic frying-pan fights with Rik Mayall? Bottom, perhaps?

IF Moscow really is planting fake news to bring down the West, expect it to be a well-con-

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



cealed operation. You know how it is. You open one Russian troll and there's another troll inside.

THANKS for your memories of words spoken by teachers many years ago which have stuck in your memory. A reader who taught geography for 40 years describes asking one of his former pupils what, if anything, he remembered about his lessons. "I was hoping for some profound geographical memory," he says. Instead, the pupil recalled: "I spilt some ink on the classroom carpet and you called me a berk".

AND before some of you of a certain age reach for the keyboard for a good harrumph, I am ahead of you. Carpet in the classroom? Luxury.

I WROTE recently about the Co-op Bank no longer supplying addressed envelopes for customers to send their credit-card payments. A reader asks: "When did banks do anything to help their customers?" The common view of business, he says, is that their idea of "helping" customers is to make it increasingly difficult to contact them by letter or phone. If you're not on email, you're stuffed.

UNDER the headline "CoE to allow boys to wear dresses," the latest Private Eye magazine pokes fun at the Church of England which has suggested children should be able to "try out the many cloaks of identity," with little boys being allowed to wear tutus and girls to wear

tool belts if they wish. The Eye makes the point that CoE clergy are regularly seen in elaborate "non-gender" vestments. This surely rings a bell with older readers who recall a classic 1986 front cover during the furious debate on female ordination. It showed three smiling bishops in their magnificent flowing robes with the caption: "Who needs women priests when they've got us?"

I WATCHED The Boy with the Topknot (BBC2), Sathnam Sanghera's tale of growing up in Wolverhampton in a family stalked by mental illness. Later, I picked up the copy of his book he presented to me nine years ago. In the acknowledgments he noted: "I would like to thank Peter Rhodes . . . for giving me my first break in journalism." I'm proud of helping this gifted young writer to get started in his career although, to be honest, I can't recall doing much more than offering a few tips. The real leap forward in Sathnam Sanghera's life came from something once available to millions of bright working-class kids. A grammar-school education.

FASCINATING to see Theresa May "locking in" the timing of Britain leaving the EU by writing the departure date into law. I seem to recall that the timing of general elections was locked into law, setting them at five-yearly intervals, until Mrs May thought a snap election would be a good idea. When politics is involved, there ain't a legal lock that can't be picked.

HOWARDS End. That's the correct title. No apostrophe. I can't explain it either. Nor can I explain why a TV series has been made when a perfectly fine movie of Howards End already exists.

## TALKING POINT



# Kindness can create a lasting memory

Why do we always hear 'there's a lot of bad 'uns out there'? Yes I am sure that is the case but there are also a lot of good 'uns as well, so let's hear more about them instead.

It is a shame that sometimes it does take something bad to happen to really show the true character of people.

Often the people you think will be there by your side disappear into thin air, but maybe somebody you feel you hardly know, or don't know at all, goes above and beyond.

And with all the awful atrocities this year, somewhere, among all the tragedy and sadness, there are tales of heroism, kindness, on both a small and major scale. And sometimes it is the people you think least likely to step up – people dropping kids at school, on their way to work, popped out to get a paper, or just on a night out with mates – who step in to help. And even if, at the time, the help seemed minimal, it is how it makes the victim feel – supported, not alone.

There was an incident recently which summed up how a little thought can go such a long way. My daughter-in-law was on the motorway when the exhaust dropped off her car. With two children in the back of the car she quickly pulled onto the hard shoulder and rang for help.

The highway patrol turned up to advise and luckily she had breakdown cover.

So it was a case of waiting, probably for the best part of an hour, on the hard shoulder. As advised they got out of the car and stood outside.

It was cold, windy and wet and trying to keep two children warm and a two-year-old from straying into danger is no mean feat as the cars race by. She called us from the roadside, scared and cold.

Cars sped past but one kind man pulled over and offered her drinks and crisps for the kids and a coat to keep them warm.

It probably cost him next to nothing but the difference that made to the situation was immense. When she safely arrived at her mum's after having her car towed there, she called us to say all was fine.

And the thing she most remembered was not the fear and cold but the fact that somebody had stopped to help. A little kindness, a lasting memory.

Her mum put something on Facebook, and I hope he saw it, or somebody who knows him told him, as he deserves praise for what he did.

OK you might say a small gesture – crisps and drinks don't cost a lot – but for those few minutes the situation changed from despair to a warm glow at somebody's kindness. So you see, there are a lot of good people out there.

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# Don't set up NHS boss as the fall guy

**AFTER** being on the edge of crisis during the summer, we have to hope that the National Health Service will be able to cope in the coming winter.

We have to hope that the NHS will be protected from major outbreaks of flu and the winter vomiting virus.

We have to hope that the NHS will not suffer too much from staff shortages as many foreign staff decide to

leave Britain or not apply as a result of the uncertainty about Brexit.

We have to hope that the NHS will be able to cope with the problems caused by bed blocking as a result of social care being underfunded.

Spare a thought for Simon Stevens, the NHS Chief Executive, who has been told that he is to be held personally responsible for NHS performance but who does not have any power to decide the amount of money it receives.

In June 2016 the country voted to leave the EU. Many people were motivated by the claim that we would be able to give an extra £350 million a week to the NHS.

We have to insist that the Government gives Simon Stevens and the NHS the money it deserves instead of setting him up as a fall guy,

**R TABERNER**  
Tividale

## Address injustice at inquests

WHEN hospitals, the police, local authorities or other offices of the State are involved in an inquest, they often have legal representation funded by the public purse.

Yet the family suffering a bereavement, sometimes in the most terrible circumstances, is likely to be refused the same publicly-funded legal aid.

Without professional support at a coroner's hearing, distressed relatives are likely to be seriously disadvantaged. They are completely unfamiliar with the process and could miss the opportunity to ask the right questions.

The Home Secretary's adviser on the Hillsborough disaster, the Right Reverend James Jones, has now said there is a "pressing need" for families to be represented.

This cannot be yet another missed opportunity to address this injustice.

**BRETT DIXON**  
Association of  
Personal Injury  
Lawyers

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

dudley.chron@  
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

**Code of Practice:** Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at [www.ipsa.co.uk](http://www.ipsa.co.uk). If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## Art should be on show

READERS have no doubt seen the reports about the Brooke Robinson collection which now has no home due to the closure of Dudley Art Gallery and may wonder who he was. Brooke Robinson was a wealthy solicitor who was MP for Dudley for 20 years. On his death in 1911 he willed the sum of £30,000 for his collection of paintings, furniture and artefacts to be displayed. As this was a vast sum of money at the time, his widow and the trustees decided the money would be used to build the Brooke Robinson Memorial Hall which we now call the Town Hall, a coroners' court and also an art museum.

To do this required an act of Parliament, the Brooke Robinson Museum Charity Scheme Confirmation Act 1919. Under a deed of covenant the trustees and Dudley Council would maintain the exhibits and display them for the people of Dudley. So for all Mr Robinson gave to Dudley borough he asked only for space for his collection to be displayed, which it was before being shut away until 1981 when it was found a home in the art gallery.

**RON GWILLIAMS**  
Brierley Hill

## Museums in muddle over plans

I just wish we could be told the truth about the Brooke Robinson Collection.

All we have received so far are cryptic and contradictory news items released by the council and the Brooke Robinson Trust.

The whole basis of the argument for moving Dudley Museum was to sell off the museum building in St James's Road to generate funds after severe Government cuts. Now there seem to be plans to reopen the building in St James's Road and display the Brooke Robinson Collection.

The trust seems to be very active in re-ordering its collection (hence the recent auction). If that is the case why has the council spent £300,000 in moving the museum in the first place when it could have stayed where it was? It's a great museum but no-one goes there now because it's hidden away at Archives.

Please may we have an answer?  
**MARTIN JONES**  
Sedgley

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Grand pact with  
zoo to continue



TV star Lisa Riley meets a bunny at Dudley Zoo before appearing in Grand pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk

DUDLEY Zoo and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre have announced the signing of a sponsorship deal which will continue their partnership to promote the Black Country's annual family pantomime.

The zoo's sponsorship of the panto will continue for a further two years. It means the zoo will continue to have its branding associated with the show and stars will continue to visit the Castle Hill attraction.

Panto stars including Lisa Riley visited some of the animals cared for under the shadow of Dudley Castle.

Grand associate director Vicky Price said: "We're absolutely thrilled that Dudley Zoological Gardens will continue to collaborate with us. Both venues provide magical experiences for children and their families."

The Grand's panto this festive season is Jack and the Beanstalk, from December 9 to January 14, with Gareth Gate, Lisa Riley and the Black Country's Doreen Tipton

# Confiscated cash used to support credit union

**CASH confiscated from loan sharks will be used to reward people who save through a credit union in Dudley.**

Castle & Crystal Credit Union, supported by Dudley Council, has launched the scheme to encourage people to start saving this festive period while also making them aware of the dangers of loan sharks.

The first 50 people to join the credit union – and save a minimum of £10 per month for the first three months – were getting a £25 savings boost into their account.

The cash will come from money confiscated from convicted loan sharks at court under the Proceeds of Crime Act, with the initiative being run jointly with the England Illegal Money Lending Team.

Chiefs said they hope this will encourage residents to build up savings for Christmas and prevent more people from having to turn to a loan shark to borrow urgently needed cash.

The scheme is only available to residents living in the wards of Upper Gornal and Woodsetton, Coseley, Kingswinford, Wall Heath

**By David Cosgrove**

and Wordsley. It has been backed by the Dudley mayor, Councillor Dave Tyler, who has opened an account and will donate the £25 to his three mayoral charities – Dudley Mind, the YMCA Black Country Group and the Dudley branch of the Alzheimer's Society.

Councillor Peter Miller, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "Loan sharks often target low-income and desperate families; preying on struggling individuals and exploiting them for personal financial gain."

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## Community backs Chris funeral fund

A COMMUNITY has come together to raise money for the funeral of young Dudley father Chris Brookes, who died after falling from a bridge over Wolverhampton ring road.

More than 100 people attended an event held at Meadow Road Youth & Venture Site in Wren's Nest, Dudley.

Chris, aged 22, who died on October 28, has left behind a three-year-old daughter, Layla-Jade, and pregnant girlfriend Sarah Jayne Collins, 23, who is expecting their son Chris Junior in January.

Sarah, from Oldbury, said: "I think it is amazing how many people came out. It is overwhelming. Chris would be proud."

A football tournament, tombola and a bouncy castle for children were among the activities held during the community event on Saturday. The day was held to raise money for Chris' funeral, which is on November 29.

Chris' mother Pauline Room, 47, from Netherton, was taken back by the amount of people who turned up to support their family.

She said: "I didn't know Chris knew so many people to be honest. The day has been held in memory of Chris and to help raise funds for his funeral. All the community have helped put to it."

A fundraising page was set up in the wake of his death to support his family. The target was £3,000, but it was surpassed within a week and now stands at more than £4,300.

An inquest opened last week heard Mr Brookes left his friends after a night out and was later found in the bus lane after apparently falling.

# Shop was selling biscuits and crisps gnawed on by mice

## Santas are on course to help charity



Dressed up and ready for the Santa fun run at West Park, organised by the Beacon Centre and RNIB

HUNDREDS of Santas will part in an annual 5km charity fun run to help people with sight loss when the Santa Run returns to West Park in Wolverhampton on December 3.

People can run, walk, jog or even

skip their way around the the course. Adults and children over 12 will be given a Santa suit to wear on the day, and under 12s get a Santa hat.

The event has been organised by the Sedgley-based Beacon Centre and

RNIB. The run is on from 10.30am-12.30pm. Entry is £10 for adults and children over 12, £5 for younger children with under 5s free.

Visit [beaconvision.org](http://beaconvision.org) website for further details.

CRISPS and biscuits gnawed by mice were sold to customers from a rodent-infested shop, a court heard.

Husband and wife Ajbinder and Baljit Purewal had displayed nibbled packets of Wotsits, Squares and biscuits in their Coseley store. Mouse droppings were also scattered across the premises when health inspectors visited the shop. The owners were handed a financial penalty of almost £1,300.

Sentencing at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court, District Judge Michael Wheeler said: "There was a high risk, given that you are a conveyor of certain types of food, to people affected by any infestation and any disease caused by it. There is no evidence of anyone suffering as a result of buying anything that had been infested."

Health inspectors swooped on A and B News Convenience and Off Licence after receiving a complaint from a customer. They discovered the couple were selling 'unsafe' items of food, including five packets of Wotsits, a packet of cheese and onion flavoured Squares and coconut ring biscuits.

Mouse droppings on shelves, counters and the floor were found, there was no pest control in place or food hygiene training, the court heard.

The couple were ordered to close the Poole Crescent shop and shut for a week to get rid of the rodents.

Baljit Purewal, 41, said the shop 'got a bit neglected' for a few days.

Both of Poole Crescent, Coseley, they admitted five counts on food safety and hygiene and were each fined £560, plus £56 victim surcharge and £638.67 costs.

## Bus shelter becomes jobs' meeting place

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to remove a bus shelter that has become a base for 'anti-social behaviour'.

Youths have been throwing objects at houses and taking drugs while congregating there, according to Castle and Priory ward's Councillor Ken Finch. He says a petition has been handed in to Transport for West Midlands to remove the shelter while keeping the bus stop in Laurel Road, Dudley.

He added: "We have got a problem with anti-social-behaviour at that bus stop, which is causing a disturbance for residents living opposite"

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## Hippodrome talk sparks memories

Wollaston E TWG

FORTY seven members were present at the October meeting, which in the absence of chairman Julie Willets, was presided over by vice chairman Sue Ward. Apologies were read, followed by the minutes of the previous meeting.

The treasurer reported that the club was in a healthy position financially. A thank you card had been received from a new member, expressing her appreciation to the guild for making her feel so welcome.

Sue Ward mentioned a federation arts and crafts event, taking place in Derbyshire. The bowling season was concluded with a series of friendly matches against the Sons of Rest. Glenys Allen will receive the trophy for winning this season's guild bowling championship.

Members were so enthralled by the Victorian Evening at Haden Hill House that interest was expressed in the December 7 Christmas candlelit night.

Speaker for the evening was Peter Glews, a local historian whose subject was Dudley Hippodrome. Peter's talk, accompanied by slides and old films, made members feel very nostalgic, and keen to join in many old songs performed by past stars. At the conclusion members were most enthusiastic in showing their appreciation.

Raffle prizes went to Brenda Adkins and June Lees.

## Vital items boxed up for Christmas



Local co-ordinator Deborah Slater and guild members with the donated items

AT a previous meeting, Sedgley Morning Townswomen's Guild Committee discussed Christmas, having previously contributed shoe boxes for children.

However this year, the guild decided to consider that every child has a mother.

In the Midlands mothers and their children are being driven out of their homes through abuse of one type or another.

Often these women seek help at a local refuge, literally with just the clothes they are wearing. Christmas is a flash point in many cases, so having spoken to the local Womens' Aid Centre, the guild's committee decided to appeal for donations of essential items, for example toiletries, sanitary

### Sedgley Morning Townswomen's Guild

products and clothes. Deborah Slater, the local co-ordinator, accepted the gifts from members.

The large box was full, with items also including seasonal gifts to hopefully bring a smile to a victim's face at Christmas, and to let them know that people do care.

Only after the meeting, did several members admit that they had relatives who had suffered in the past either physical or mental abuse from partners they loved and had believed loved them.

## Entertainment from strummers

Kingswinford TG

THERE was a lot of business to get through at the November 13 meeting at the Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford.

The Federation report emphasised the Christmas celebration in St Thomas's Church, Stourbridge on De-

cember 9. Enid issued a reminder that new committee members would be needed.

Dawn Hampton was thanked for the pot plant she provided for the chair-

man's table, which she donated as a raffle prize. The collection box was put out for those who wished to donate in lieu of cards.

The Kingswinford Strummers gave an enjoyable performance. Chris Moy gave thanks.

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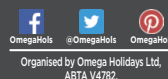
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# VC war hero's grave is the last to be repaired

THE grave of a Zulu War hero will be one of the last to be restored by The Victoria Cross Trust due to lack of funding.

Colour Sergeant Anthony Booth's grave at St Michael's Church, in Brierley Hill, was initially thought to have been attacked by vandals in August this year.

More than £3,000 was raised in just a few days to help fund the restoration of it after an appeal was launched by the trust, which relies solely on donations.

It was later revealed that the grave may have been accidentally damaged during churchyard maintenance by Dudley Council.

The damage was discovered by Zulu War historian Jonathan Graham, who had visited the grave to take photographs, and he reported it to the VC Trust.



Sgt Anthony Booth

Now trust bosses state it will be their last restoration project for the time being due to 'lack of financial support'.

It comes as permission was granted by the Diocese of Worcester for work to be carried out.

Gary Stapleton, trust chief executive, said: "We

will be suspending any further work for the time being – the funds are just not there.

"We run the museum to raise the funds and despite operating in profit it is just not enough to start planning large restoration projects.

"It is annoying that rewards were put forward but then not put into the project, the crowdfunding page was a great effort but it seems the majority of that came about from the belief that it may have been criminal damage.

"This will be the last project for the time being until we have some Government funding or a kind benefactor."

Sergeant Booth was awarded the VC for saving 50 men by giving them covering fire during a retreat.



Vicar David Hoskin examines the damaged grave of Brierley Hill VC war hero Anthony Booth

# Insurance industry professional in court over 13 false claims

AN insurance worker who used her industry knowledge to defraud companies out of more than £19,000 has avoided jail.

Rachel Shoer, aged 42, from Century Way, Halesowen, used fake names to set-up false insurance policies. She made 13 fraudulent claims over seven years, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Investigators from the City of London Police discovered that Shoer followed a pattern of taking out a policy with a different insurer every year under a different name.

She admitted that because of her terrible claims history under her real name she was unable to take out home insurance and used false details to ensure she could receive insurance cover. Between 2009 and 2016, Shoer's fraudulent claims included multiple times where she used original pictures from her own wedding and 40th birthday to make claims on an engagement ring.

She had held a range of positions working in the insurance industry, and worked as an underwriter for an insurer during the time she was making the claims.

Shoer was given a 15-month sentence, suspended for two years, and a 20-hour community order after she pleaded guilty to making numerous false claims.

# Police car rammed in 17-mile pursuit

A THUG rammed a police car during a 17-mile high-speed chase in a stolen van while swigging beer at the wheel, a court heard.

Leroy Scott, a father-of-two from Cradley, ignored police demands to stop, hitting speeds of up to 75mph as he sped through red lights, overtook queues of traffic and even smashed a patrol car out of the way as he raced through Dudley.

But Scott was finally came to a standstill in the wrecked van in Netherton and has been given a 14-month jail sentence after admitting dangerous driving.

The 25-minute chase started in Bridgnorth when police spotted Scott behind the wheel of the Peugeot Iveco on July 4, which was 17 days after the vehicles had been reported stolen, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

**Passengers**

The 40-year-old was swigging beer from a bottle as he drove, according to a police officer, said Miss Fiona Cortese, prosecuting.

Scott raced through the hamlets of Six Ashes and Enville, then the defendant, who had two passengers in the van, crossed a central reservation of the road and drove the wrong way down

By John Scott

the opposite carriageway.

Police tried to stop Scott in Duncan Edwards Way, Dudley, but he rammed one of the police cars. The van finally stopped in Cinder Bank.

Scott refused to take a breath test. He had 21 previous convictions involving 52 separate offences to do with vehicles.

Mr Daniel White, defending, conceded: "He has had difficulties with drink and drugs."

Scott from Severn Road, Colley Gate, admitted dangerous driving and failing to answer bail.

Judge Barry Berlin told him: "This was an utterly shocking piece of driving that put the police, other road users, your passengers and yourself at risk."

Scott will also face a five year driving ban on his release.

# Volunteers needed

WE need more – that's the message from Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust as it marks the recruitment of its 200th volunteer.

The Volunteer Service has been building up a team of recruits to help around its sites, which include Sandwell, City and Rowley Regis Hospitals, as well as Leasowes Intermediate Care Centre.

The service aims to reach a target of 460 recruits by next September. Liza Gill, volunteers co-ordinator, said: "We have a varied range of roles for volunteers within the trust and we intend on increasing their presence across all sites over the coming months. There will also be an opportunity for volunteers at the Midland Metropolitan Hospital, when it opens in 2019.Call 0121 507 4855 for further details.

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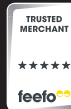
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# Dave hits right chord to back appeal



Flamboyant Slade rocker Dave Hill is backing the Feed a Family This Christmas campaign

IN the words of that famous song, 'It's Christmaaaaas!', and now Slade guitarist is following on from those heady days of his band's domination of the festive season, by backing our Feed a Family This Christmas appeal.

Dave said he would be backing the Express & Star and Chronicle's festive appeal to support the region's vulnerable at Christmas.

The 71-year-old added: "Anything to do with a good cause like this, I'm happy to support. It's really good that the paper is doing this..."

We are collecting donations of non-perishable food which will be handed to food banks and other charitable organisations across the region. Readers can donate festive food, as

## THE DROP-OFF POINTS:

Express & Star Wolverhampton, 51-53 Queen Street, WV1 1ES; Express & Star Cannock/Walsall office, Queen Square, Cannock WS11 1EA; Oldbury office, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury, B69 2DG.

## DONATIONS CAN ALSO BE DROPPED OFF AT:

Waitrose Wolverhampton, Penn Road, WV2 4NJ; The Midcounties Co-operative Food Store Codsall, 28-32 Wood Lane/Bakers Way, Codsall WV8 1DB. Donations dropped off at those will go to The Well.



well as basics. Non-food items such as toiletries, baby supplies, new socks and small presents are also welcome.

Good causes set to benefit are The Well (Home of Wolverhampton Food Bank), Wolverhampton's the Good Shepherd Ministry, the Black Coun-

try Food Bank, the Smethwick Food Bank, Walsall North Food Bank and Cannock and District Food Bank.

The appeal will also support The Haven, which helps women and children affected by domestic violence.

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**FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL**



# Firm is fined £390k after welder crushed by cylinder

**A FIRM has been fined £390,000 and told to pay £24,000 costs after a welder was crushed by a 2.8 ton cylinder.**

Andrew King was known to be doing a potentially dangerous job when disaster struck but The Angle Ring Company had not prepared a risk assessment for it, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 36-year-old was using a propane lamp to weld plates onto the cylinder when it tipped forward and fell on him at the Broomfield Road, Tipton works on November 11 2014. It fractured his left leg in three places and lacerated the right leg. The injuries could have been worse if a post had not inadvertently halted the cylinder and prevented its full weight landing on him.

Mr King, who had worked at the firm for four years, said: "I shouted for help and felt blood inside by welder visor."

He was off work for nine months and is still suffering psychologically.

## Warned

AMERICAN pianist Mike Garson, famed for his work on David Bowie's Aladdin Sane album, will be paying tribute to Bowie at Birmingham's O2 Institute on Saturday.

The New Yorker will be playing the Aladdin Sane album in full plus other Bowie favourites with special guests Steve Harley - one of Bowie's 70 contemporaries - and Gaby Moreno.

Meanwhile, after beating pancreatic cancer and overcoming a stroke last year, rock star Chris Rea has been determined to resume his musical career with a new album and tour.

The husky-voiced Teesider famous for The Road to Hell and Driving Home for Christmas is back with his 24th album, Road Songs for Lovers, and a concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Wednesday, November 29.

## Sane pianist and on the road with Rea

## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas



**Santa's boozer - The Summerhouse pub's colourful display with landlords Phil and Karen Kennedy**

CHRISTMAS has arrived at The Summerhouse, near Sedgley, which is famous across the Black Country for its extravagant festive decorations.

Hundreds of people flocked to the popular pub off Gospel End Road to see the fantastic array of lights.

Landlords Phil and Karen Kennedy are raising money for charity through the seasonal display with Heart Link Children's Charity in Leicester to benefit.

Karen explained that the East Midlands Children's Heart Care Association, based at Glenfield Hospital had helped her family.

Thousands of LED bulbs go into the display at the pub that Karen runs with husband Phil, 54. They have a son James, 15, and daughter Zoe, 11.

"They bring a bit of Christmas spirit to the community and everybody appreciates them which makes it worthwhile doing," she said. "The

Christmas lights are quite famous in the area and it seems to be getting bigger each year."

The theme of the display this year illustrates a child going to bed on Christmas Eve. It features Disney characters and a Christmas tree.

Karen, who has run the pub for three years, said it had a tradition of an extravagant display stretching back before the their arrival but she felt it had to continue.

## Tree of Light ceremonies are planned

MARY Stevens Hospice is working with three venues to host its annual festive remembrance ceremonies.

The services are an opportunity for the local community to come together to remember those they have loved and lost.

A non-religious ceremony was being held at Hagley Golf Club yesterday evening (Wednesday) at 7pm, and later that evening the tree of remembrance in the hospice grounds was being lit, to remain until January 5.

St Mary's Church in Oldswinford hosts a ceremony on Saturday at 4pm, before a final ceremony takes place on Sunday at St John the Baptist Church in Halesowen.

Marie Faux, bereavement support officer, said: "Remembering those we have loved is a very important part of grieving."

"At our Tree of Light ceremonies, we offer a special environment in which we give thanks for those memories and come together to support other members of our community through a difficult time."

"There will be readings, music performed by some very talented local artists and choirs, and the chance to light a candle or sponsor a light in memory of your loved one."

For details see [www.marystevenshospice.co.uk](http://www.marystevenshospice.co.uk) website.

## Litter pick plan for Beacon beauty spot

PLANS are in the pipeline for litter picking to take place at a beauty spot.

The proposals are being drawn up by Friends of Sedgley Beacon in Dudley borough.

The group wants to protect the site and keep it well tended so visitors can enjoy leisure and community activities.

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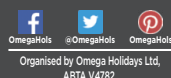
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## She-Wolf snarl of the UK's best band

**Wolf Alice, O2 Academy, Birmingham**

AS members of Wolf Alice surveyed a hot and heaving full-to-the-brim venue after a blistering 80-minute set they must have thought: It doesn't get much better than this.

I have seen the quartet go from third on the bill, main support, small hall bill toppers, to become the best young rock band in the UK.

If debut album 2015's *My Love Is Cool* was good, this year's *Visions Of A Life* is great. Songs from both featured at a gig that will have satisfied original fans and those that have come on board more recently.

Ellie Rowsell has become a force of nature, her voice running the full gamut from whisper to scream via she-devil snarl.

The mosh pit revelled in Yuk Foo and You're A Germ, fans loved the drama of Formidable Cool and angular charm of Beautifully Unconventional. Rock epic Visions Of A Life showed why they will hold their own with metal monsters like Ozzy Osbourne at the Download Festival Paris next summer.

Earlier, homecoming heroes Superfood impressed with funky grooves (as heard on new album *Bambino*) and got the joint jumping with Double Dutch. New York trio Sunflower Bean's neo-psychedelic swirl has a new swagger and a confident frontwoman in Julia Cumming.

LB



Dave Gahan in action with Depeche Mode at Arena Birmingham on Sunday night

## They're still in the Mode

**Depeche Mode, Arena Birmingham**

WHAT a strange long road it's been for Depeche Mode, from perky 80s synth kids to gnarly rock gods of the 21st century, and their army of fans has kept on growing.

With the Brum mega-venue full to capacity and covering quite an age range, it's a testament to the dark melodic appeal of the Mode that they still feel vital and current whilst many of their '80s contemporaries rely on the nostalgia circuit.

The original Essex trio of singer Dave Gahan, singer-guitarist Martin L Gore and keyboardist Andy Fletcher have been augmented into a five-piece band, who put on performance that packed a punch, if let down somewhat by the staging.

A video wall that spent some of the night in darkness, also leaving a gantry where Gahan strutted his stuff in shadows, meant that those at the back of the venue must have had to peer hard to catch a glimpse of the group through the dry ice haze.

But they will have heard them loud and clear with a powerhouse performance of songs spanning four decades, right up to and including this year's album *Spirit*, their 14th studio album.

Oddly the new album only contributed

three songs to the two-hour gig, including opener *Going Backwards*, but perhaps that's because the band have such a huge back catalogue to choose from.

Tattooed front man Gahan was in fine form, pirouetting and preening, in constant motion and exercising that resonant mellow vocal. He's grown distinctly Johnny Depp-like as he's got older, can rock a waistcoat like no other and his supple moves make him a walking advert for the benefits of yoga.

He did share vocal duties with chief songwriter Gore, who stepped into the limelight for *Insight*, the classic *Home* (both from 1997's *Ultra* album) and first encore *Strangelove*.

The fans, including thousands standing in the lower arena, loved the inclusion of 1983 hit *Everything Counts* and 1984's *Stripped*. But it was the tracks from seminal 1990 album *Violator* and 93's *Songs of Faith and Devotion* that really got the arena rocking with *In Your Room*, *Walking in My Shoes*, an extended version of *Enjoy the Silence* and final encore *Personal Jesus*, which got the whole arena roaring 'reach out and touch faith'.

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# Why Anton's in the mood for singing

**W**e start with a moment described perfectly accurately and unalasciviously on YouTube as this: Ruth Langford rides Anton

Du Beke.

For those just back from a long holiday in Outer Mongolia, we'll recap. At the start of the month, Strictly's Anton Du Beke unexpectedly found himself pinned to the ground beneath the beautiful, perfectly-manicured Singapore-born presenter. And then she sort of wriggled a bit. And shimmied. Jeez.

Anton laughs. No doubt he's recounted that moment dozens of times, but he's game again this morning. Was he horrified when the two of them went down?

He laughs again. "No, I told Ruth it had been her best move."

There's a pause. Then we both laugh.

"It was one of those things. It was not her fault.

Everything goes into slow motion when things like that happen.

"You think: 'I've got this, I'll just adjust.' Then it's 'Jesus, I don't think I've got this. And you wait for the ground to arrive at your back side.'"

Anton thought it was a hoot when it happened - and still does.

"It was hilarious. It was one of the funniest moments ever on strictly. The crowd went mad."

We have more to talk about, however, like Anton's forthcoming tour and his decision to try to emulate his Rat Pack heroes like Frank and Sammy D.

Anton, TV's most sartorial man, is The Entertainer. And in addition to tripping the light fantastic on Strictly, he's been recording a debut album in the studio, From The Top.

## PASSION

"I'm so excited to announce my debut album. It's been a passion project of mine for years to be able to do something like this.

"I hope people enjoy it. I've loved every second of it. There's some old songs. Some new songs. And definitely some songs you can dance to."

It features classics like Putting On The Ritz, Fly Me To The Moon, Don't Rain On My Parade and It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year.

It's something he'd wanted to do forever, but took a while to bring together.

"I'm never quite sure how one gets from Point A to Point B sometimes. The same was true when I was watching Fred Astaire when I was young, I wanted to be like him but I wasn't sure of the path from a Church Hall in Kent to becoming Fred Astaire. And with music, I've never been sure how to get from the shower to singing Fly Me To The Moon in a studio with a great producer."

Anton worked on the record with Polydor and he was delighted with their support.

"You just want someone to say to you: 'Listen, it's great, keep going.' You get self conscious and you don't really know whether it's any good. But it's been a wonderful experience.

"It's the music of my life. It's music I loved growing up with and music I danced to. Being able to sing it and get others dancing is the greatest joy."

Anton grew up watching the greats. He was enchanted by Sammy Davis Jr, Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra as well as the wonderful arrangements by Nelson Riddle and Quincy Jones. He worked with a 36-piece orchestra on his album

Best moves - Anton with Strictly dance partner Ruth Langford



to create new arrangements and the results are plain to see.

Anton is habitually tied up during the run-in to Christmas, what, with Strictly an all. But he'll be road testing some of the songs when he tours the UK from January to March.

"I'll be back on tour after the new year and I'll be coming back to the Symphony Hall in Birmingham - I do love that venue. I'll be dancing and singing, as I normally do. But if anybody's been to see me on tour, they know I sing a bit both on Strictly and on my own tours.

"I keep saying this, I don't want it to sound odd, but the sound of the album is incredible. It's such a brilliant sound they put together in the studio."

The team who worked with Anton to produce his album blew him away. They were simultaneously supportive and honest, scrutinising everything he did to make sure he reached his potential. "I worked with a guy called Brian Rawlings, who has worked with the greats. He's done projects with Andrea Bocelli, Cher, everyone. When I went to the studio, the walls were lined with platinum discs."

*It was one of the funniest moments ever on Strictly. The crowd went mad*

So does Anton want to follow in those footsteps? Does he want to be lining his own walls with a bunch of silver, gold and platinum discs? You can bet he does.

"I hope it goes absolutely massive, I hope I get a platinum disc and people say it's incredible. But we'll have to wait and see whether that actually happens, we'll have to wait and see. I love it so much that I want other people to love it.

"This type of big band music is still being done and has stood the test of time. We'll have to wait and see in the future what still gets repeated in the same way from today's era. The songs I've re-recorded are great in their own right. The hard bit for me was choosing what to leave out."

In the final analysis, making people happy is what The Entertainer is all about. And he plans to keep dancing for as long as possible. "For now, I still love dancing. Doing the paso doble and samba and ripping my trousers off - I live for those moments. Or dancing with Nadiya and doing a beautiful foxtrot while Seal is singing: those are the moments you live for."

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Festive favourite The Nutcracker



## Christmas cracker of a ballet is a traditional treat

Birmingham Royal Ballet's annual festive treat, The Nutcracker, opens at Birmingham Hippodrome tomorrow night (Friday).

Sir Peter Wright's magical production runs until December 13 and has been an annual seasonal tradition since the company moved from London and took on the city's name more than 25 years ago.

This world-acclaimed production with its classic story of an incredible Christmas journey, features glorious dancing and instantly recognisable romantic music from Tchaikovsky.

Join Clara as she is swept into an enchanting winter wonderland of whirling snowflakes, a handsome prince, wicked rats and a Sugar Plum Fairy.

It is spectacular with lavish costumes and

monumental sets, and amazing effects including a Christmas tree that grows before your eyes and Clara's flight on the back of a swan to a magical land.

The Nutcracker has captured the hearts and imaginations of generations of theatregoers, becoming an annual fixture at the Hippodrome, which is Birmingham Royal Ballet's home theatre. In fact, Christmas in Birmingham just wouldn't be the same without it.

In this most festive of ballets 60 dancers and a full orchestra – the Royal Ballet Sinfonia – combine to make the perfect Christmas treat for the entire family.

This production with exquisite designs by John Macfarlane is acclaimed as one of the best in the world.

## Grease is still the one that you want



Grease is the word at Wolverhampton Grand where the latest tour of the much-loved rock 'n' roll musical arrives on Monday and will run until Saturday, December 2.

Tom Parker, pictured, formerly of boy band The Wanted, is making make his musical theatre debut as Danny Zuko, the role made famous in the movie by the young John Travolta.

Danielle Hope, who was Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz at the London Palladium after winning BBC TV's Over The Rainbow, will step into Olivia Newton-John's high heel shoes as Sandy.

Wisecracking Rizzo will be played by EastEnders and The Bill star Louisa Lytton, one of the youngest Strictly Come Dancing competitors in 2006. George Olney is Teen Angel/Vince Fontaine.

Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey's musical, set in an American high

school during the rock 'n' roll era, features such songs as You're The One That I Want, Summer Nights, Greased Lightnin' and Hopelessly Devoted To You. It has been choreographed by Arlene Phillips and directed by David Gilmore, who was also at the helm for stage versions of Happy Days and Footloose.

This production opened in the West End, where it had a six year run, and has toured ever since.

## It's a Cruella winter at the Rep

Birmingham Rep is set for a paw-some festive season with The Hundred and One Dalmatians on stage from Thursday (November 30) to January 13. Debbie Isitt (Nativity!) adapts the family favourite story by Dodie Smith, which was turned into an animated classic by Disney. It is brought to life on stage with puppetry devised by director Tessa Walker and designer Jamie Vartan. Former Birmingham student Gloria Onitiri, above, makes her Rep debut as wicked Cruella de Vil.



## Rag'N'Bone Man is only Human at Civic

One of the breakout stars of 2017, Rag'N'Bone Man, has sold out the Civic Hall on Monday for his first Wolverhampton gig. Without doubt 2017 has been his year, emerging from the Brighton music scene, his debut album has been a huge hit worldwide, containing the international hit Human, which went to Number 1 on iTunes in more than 40 countries. The harmonious sound of America folk-rockers Fleet Foxes can be heard at the Civic tomorrow night (Friday), whilst punk veterans Sham 69 are at the Slade Rooms. There's a sell-out again at the venue on Saturday for former leading members of The Beautiful South, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott. Highlights at the Robin 2 in Bilston include '80s duo China Crisis on Sunday and former Zombies frontman Colin Blunstone on Monday.

## Bowjangles

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CHOICE



**Joe Orton**  
**Joe Orton Laid Bare (BBC2, 9pm)**  
Documentary exploring the wit, work and world of Joe Orton, the Leicester-born playwright and author whose flourishing literary career was cut short when he was killed by his boyfriend Kenneth Halliwell in 1967. Fifty years after his demise, this film charts Orton's meteoric rise to fame following his imprisonment in 1962 for defacing library books. Orton believed his sentence was unduly harsh, and had more to do with the fact he was homosexual than the crime itself, but his time in prison allowed him to crystallise his distinctive worldview. Here, excerpts from his stage and TV plays, along with his personal diaries, outline his outrageous perspective, and the circumstances of his death are re-examined.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Nigella: At My Table. (R)**  
**12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Rugby League World Cup. 2.00 Live International Rugby Union. Scotland v Australia (Kick-off 2.30pm). 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme. 5.45 BBC News. 5.55 Regional Programme.**  
**6.00 Pointless Celebrities.** Simon Wood, Jane Devonshire, Lee McQueen, Yasmina Siadatan, Sam Ballal, Michelle McManus, George Sampson and Jermaine Jackson take part in a "TV Winner" edition of the quiz show.  
**6.50 Strictly Come Dancing.** The seven remaining pro-celebrity duos return to the Elstree studio, in the wake of their expedition to the Lancashire coast last weekend for the annual Blackpool Tower special. The competition will be no less intense on coming back to familiar territory, though, as the celebrities and their seasoned dancing partners draw closer to the grand final. Judges Shirley Ballas, Bruno Tonioli, Darcy Bussell and Craig Revel Horwood are on hand to assess each pairing's skills as they all tackle the Paso Doble at the same time in a "Pasodoblation". As ever, though, the impressing the judges is only half of the battle, as the stars must also gain the approval of the viewing public, who are given a chance to have their say over who should stay in the running.  
**8.10 Michael McIntyre's Big Show.** EastEnders star Danny Dyer hands over his phone in Celebrity Sent to All, and Gary Barlow puts in a special appearance. Plus, performances by Russell Kane and Clean Bandit.  
**9.10 Casualty.** Connie attends her first day of chemotherapy, and when Ethan tries to take the lead in her absence, his overly thorough approach causes massive delays.  
**10.00 BBC News: Weather: National Lottery Update.**  
**10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Liverpool v Chelsea, and Tottenham Hotspur v West Bromwich Albion.  
**11.45 The NFL Show.**  
**12.15 Film: Obsessed.** (2009) **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05** BBC News.

BBC2

**7.30 Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. 8.00 Deadly 60. (R) 8.30 Show Me What You're Made Of: UK. 9.00 Saturday Mash-Up! 11.00 Natural World: Chimps of the Lost Gorge. (R) 12.00 Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes. (R) 12.30 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) 1.00 Coast. (R) 1.20 Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers: Talking Pictures. (R) 2.10 Film: Daddy Long Legs. (1955) Romantic musical, starring Fred Astaire and Leslie Caron. **4.15 Britain Afloat. 4.45 Live International Rugby Union. Wales v New Zealand (Kick-off 5.15pm). 7.30 International Rugby Union.** England v Samoa. Sara Orchard presents action from the autumn international at Twickenham, which saw England attempt to extend their unbeaten run against the Samoans.  
**8.30 Dad's Army.** Mainwaring camps the platoon in the middle of a firing range, forcing Corporal Jones to make a desperate effort to raise the alarm. (R)  
**9.00 Joe Orton Laid Bare.** Documentary charting the rise to fame of playwright and author Joe Orton, whose literary career was cut short when he was killed by his boyfriend Kenneth Halliwell in 1967.  
**10.20 QI XL.** Sally Phillips, Ross Noble and Nish Kumar join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig for an extended version of the comedy quiz show. This time, the topic is 'Odorous and Odious'. During the course of the show, the panellists learn why the world's second-smelliest man is so frustrated. As ever, correctness and even intelligence go out of the window, as the fiendishly difficult questions lead to points being awarded for the answers if their questionmaster finds most interesting, as opposed to correct.  
**11.05 Insert Name Here.** Nish Kumar, Kate Williams, Katherine Ryan and Gabby Logan join host Sue Perkins and captains Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe as the comedy quiz returns. (R)  
**11.35 Film: Albert Nobbs.** (2011) A woman living in disguise as a man in 19th-century Ireland decides to find a wife after a meeting with a fellow cross-dresser. Drama, with Glenn Close and Mia Wasikowska.  
**1.20 Film: Chances Are.** (1989) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Sooty. 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Super 4. (R) 7.00 Mission Employable. (R) 7.05 Oddbods. (R) 7.10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **4.25** The Harbour. (R) **4.55** The Chase. (R) **5.55** New You've Been Framed!  
**6.20 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.25 ITV News: Weather. 6.35 Ninja Warrior UK.** Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara host the final heat, as competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in the obstacle-course challenge. (R)  
**7.30 The X Factor: The Semi Finals.** The conclusion of the musical talent show creeps ever closer, as the contest reaches the semi-finals. Throughout the live stages, surprise double eliminations, extra sing-offs and an increased number of public votes have tested not only the contestants' singing skills, but also their ability to master their nerves, and the pressure is bound to be higher than ever with the Grand Final taking place next weekend. Dermot O'Leary welcomes the performers back to the stage for another set, as Cowell and his fellow judges – Louis Walsh, Nicky Scherzinger and Sharon Osbourne – deliver their verdicts, before giving viewers at home a chance to have their say.  
**9.10 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec catch up with the celebrity castaways as their first week in the camp draws to a close, and they prepare for a Bush Tucker Trial.**  
**10.10 ITV News: Weather. 10.30 Film: Rambo: First Blood Part II.** (1985) Action adventure sequel, with Sylvester Stallone.  
**12.20 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Hungry Sailors. (R) 3.50** ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 6.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 6.55 Frasier. (R) 7.20 Frasier. (R) 7.45 The Big Bang Theory. 8.10 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 8.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 9.00 The Simpsons. (R) 9.25 The Simpsons. (R) 9.55 Formula 1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. **11.25** F1 Meets Niki Lauda. **11.55** Formula 1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix Qualifying Live. The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. **2.45** World's Most Meanville, agents Max and Steve head to central London to try to recover almost £8,000 owed to a firm of accountants. (R)  
**6.25 Channel 4 News. 6.45 Film: The Day After Tomorrow.** (2004) A climatologist warns global warming will soon result in destructive freak weather, or even another ice age. He thinks the world still has time to prepare for the worst, but the crisis happens almost immediately – and as storms, earthquakes and hurricanes strike in terrifying fashion, he races across America to rescue his son from a frozen New York. Disaster thriller, with Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid.  
**9.00 Film: Ex Machina.** (2015) Premiere. A computer programmer working for the world's biggest search engine is given the opportunity to spend a week at the remote home of his boss, a hi-tech genius. The break turns out to be an elaborate experiment, in which he must test the world's first truly artificial intelligence, which is housed in the body of a beautiful robot girl. Sci-fi drama, starring Domhnall Gleeson, Alicia Vikander and Oscar Isaac.  
**11.05 Film: Lone Survivor.** (2013) Four soldiers face a battle for survival while on a mission to eliminate a terrorist leader in Afghanistan. Fact-based drama, starring Mark Wahlberg and Taylor Kitsch.  
**1.15** The Last Leg. American comedian Margaret Cho joins the regulars. (R) **2.10** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Louis and Leela are frantic when baby Daniel goes missing. **4.20** Location, Location, Location. Phil Spencer helps a couple searching for a home in south-west London. (R) **5.15** Draw It! (R) **5.40** Film: The Parent Trap. (1961) Twin sisters who want their estranged parents to get back together swap places in a play to reunite them. Disney comedy, with Hayley Mills in a dual role alongside Maureen O'Hara.**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.30 The Gadget Show. (R) 11.25 Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) 11.55 Film: A Christmas Reunion. (2015) **1.40** Film: Santa Who? (2000) Family comedy, starring Leslie Nielsen. **3.25** Film: Angels in the Snow. (2015) Family drama, starring Kristy Swanson. **4.25** 5 News Update. **4.30** Film: Angels in the Snow. (2015) Concluded. **5.15** Film: Love You Like Christmas. (2016) Premiere. Romantic drama, starring Bonnie Somerville and Brennan Elliott.  
**6.15 5 News Update. 6.20 Film: Love You Like Christmas.** (2016) Concluded. **7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** In Coventry, the sheriffs chase £10,000 owed by a publican to a contractor. The property appears to be empty, but after finding an ingenious method of entry, Matt and Garry are confronted by a surprised and angry landlord. Meanwhile, agents Max and Steve head to central London to try to recover almost £8,000 owed to a firm of accountants. (R)  
**8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents try to recover almost £2,000 owed by the owner of a bridal shop in London, while officers in Kent chase over £4,000 of vet fees after two neighbouring dogs got into a fight. (R)  
**8.55 5 News Weekend. 9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Barnsley v Leeds United, Aston Villa v Ipswich Town and Burton Albion v Sunderland.  
**10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Walsall, Blackburn Rovers v Bristol Rovers and Coventry City v Crawley Town.  
**10.30 NCIS: New Orleans.** A sailor from Mississippi is murdered, and when it becomes clear the man was also a biker, the agents begin to suspect his death might be the result of an old gang rivalry.  
**11.25 NCIS: New Orleans.** A petty officer is found dead, and the only witness to the crime is the woman's nine-year-old nephew.  
**12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10** When Calls the Heart. (R) **4.40** Access. (R)**

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Nature's Misfits: Natural World **8.00** The Mekong River with Sue Perkins **9.00** Witnesses: A Frozen Death **10.50** The Vietnam War **11.50** What a Performance! Pioneers of Popular Entertainment **12.50** A Blackpool Big Band Boogie: Jools Holland and His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra **1.50** Nature's Misfits: Natural World **2.50** The Mekong River with Sue Perkins **3.50** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.50** Take Me Out Celebrity Special **12.50** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **1.25** Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **2.25** FYI Daily **2.30** Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **3.10** Film: Step Up (2006) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20** Film: Step Up (2006) **5.20** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **6.50** Film: Inception (2010) **9.40** Family Guy **10.10** I'm a Celebrity: Extra Camp **11.10** Family Guy **11.40** American Dad! **12.40** Release the Hounds **1.40** Viral Tap **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**11.10** FYI Daily **11.15** Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) **12.50** Film: Columbo: Make Me a Perfect Murderer (1978) **2.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Margery and Gladys **7.00** Midsomer Murders **11.05** The Syndicate **12.10** The Blonde Bombshell **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**12.45** Live Darts: Players Championship Finals. Coverage of day two from Butlins Minehead. **5.00** Nijinsky's Triple Crown **5.05** Pawn Stars **7.00** Live Darts: Players Championship Finals. Coverage of day two from Butlins Minehead. **11.00** Film: Full Metal Jacket (1987) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Full Metal Jacket (1987) **1.20** The Classic Car Show **2.20** The Protectors **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.00** How I Met Your Mother **12.00** Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **1.50** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **2.00** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Oblivion (2013) **11.30** Gogglebox **1.35** Rude Tube **2.35** First Dates **3.30** How I Met Your Mother **4.15** Rules of Engagement  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Rio (2011) **1.00** Field of Dreams (1989) **3.20** Avatar (2009) **6.30** The Riot Club Interview Special **6.40** Ender's Game (2013) **9.00** 2 Guns (2013) **11.10** Tank 432 (2015) **12.55** Immortals (2011)

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CHOICE



Guy Martin

**Guy Martin vs the Robocar (Channel 4, 9pm)**  
According to predictions, in just over 10 years' time, half of all new cars sold will be electric and 15 per cent of them will be self-driving. But where does that leave Guy Martin? In this documentary, he tries to get to grips with autonomous vehicles by building his own robotic Ford Transit in his shed, where he discovers that the hardest part is replicating human thought. So, he travels to Budapest and the US to learn more about artificial intelligence and the morality tests the software engineers must grapple with, such as should a self-driving car save its passenger or a pedestrian in an emergency scenario. And in the ultimate test, Guy takes to the track to become the first person to pit his driving skills against an AI race car.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Gregory Porter. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Elizabeth & Philip: Love and Duty. (R) **2.15** Mary Berry's Country House Secrets. (R) **3.15** Songs of Praise. **3.55** Alan Shearer: Dementia, Football and Me. (R) **4.55** Blue Planet II. (R) **5.55** BBC News.  
**6.10** Regional Programme.  
**6.20** **Countryfile.** The team visits the Cairngorms, where Joe Crowley explores Britain's largest nature reserve and one of its highest mountains, and Helen Skelton goes in search of golden eagles. Plus, Adam Henson prepares for next year's new arrivals on his farm and Tom Heap reports on the British chicken industry.  
**7.20** **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman reveal the results of last night's viewers' vote and another couple leaves the contest. Featuring a performance from Kelly Clarkson.  
**8.00** **Blue Planet II.** Footage of wildlife inhabiting underwater kelp forests, including thousands of giant cuttlefish spawning along a restricted area of rocky reef off the south coast of Australia. Males outnumber females 11 to one, which leads to fierce competition. Larger males use brute force to drive off competition, while their smaller rivals use deception by mimicking the appearance of females. The programme also features tiger sharks hunting for green turtles in fields of seagrass and spider crabs trying to avoid predators while they shed their shells.  
**9.00** **Howards End.** Margaret receives an offer which changes her plans significantly, while Evie's wedding brings the Schlegel, Bast and Wilcox families together – and drags secrets into the light.  
**10.00** BBC News.  
**10.20** Regional Programme.  
**10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action.  
**11.30** **Ronny Chieng: International Student.** Ronny agrees to fill in for Asher at her job.  
**11.55** Weather for the Week Ahead.  
**12.00** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.05** Coast. (R) **6.50** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.35** The Secret History of the British Garden. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. **11.00** Food & Drink. (R) **11.30** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** International Rugby Union. (R) **2.00** Ghost Bear Family: Natural World. (R) **3.00** Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. (R) **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.45** Flog It! (R) **5.45** Turkey with Simon Reeve. (R)  
**6.45** **Film: Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day.** (2014) Premiere. An 11-year-old boy has a day where everything seems to go wrong, but gets no sympathy from his family. He becomes convinced that bad things only ever happen to him, but then his parents, his brother and his sister all suffer terrible days of their own. Family comedy based on Judith Viorst's series of children's books, starring Ed Oxenbould, Steve Carell and Jennifer Garner.  
**8.00** **Robot Wars.** Robots Expulsion, Coyote, Thor, Magnetar, Hobbogoblin and Push to Exit battle it out for a place in the grand final. Among the players controlling the machines are self-taught engineer Ellis, and a team of schoolchildren determined to prove lack of experience is not a problem. Presented by Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon.  
**9.00** **Expedition Volcano.** Part one of two. Documentary following scientists studying some of the world's most dangerous active volcanoes in the Congo. The series begins by exploring Nyiragongo, which has erupted twice in the last 50 years, most recently in 2002, when it devastated the nearby city of Goma. However, it lies in a region troubled by war and humanitarian crises, which has made study of the volcano difficult.  
**10.00** **Snowfall.** Lucia finds it hard to break away from her family, Teddy tries to cover Alejandro's tracks, and Franklin faces new threats. Guest starring Billy Boyd (The Lord of the Rings).  
**10.40** **Film: John Carter.** (2012) Fantasy adventure, with Taylor Kitsch and Lynn Collins.  
**12.40** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission: Impossible. (R) **7.05** Outbods. (R) **7.10** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Make It Pop. (R) **8.00** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Australian Wilderness with Ray Mears. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Save Money: Good Food. (R) **11.30** Tipping Point. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.45** The X Factor: The Semi Finals. (R) **2.20** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.10** Les Dawson Forever.  
**6.05** Regional Programme: Weather.  
**6.15** ITV News: Weather.  
**6.30** **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Patrick Baladi, Vicky Williamson, John Graven and Kevin Eldon work as a team to secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh. Last in the series.  
**7.30** **The X Factor: The Semi Finals.** Dermot O'Leary hosts as the remaining contestants take to the stage, hoping to make it into the grand final, with judges Louis Walsh, Nicole Scherzinger, Simon Cowell and Sharon Osbourne battling it out to keep their acts in the show. This year Louis has the Boys, Nicole the Overs, Simon the Groups and Sharon the Girls.  
**9.00** **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** Ant and Dec give viewers at home a chance to catch up with the superstar castaways as they prepare to enter their second week in the jungle. Plus, the competition steps up a gear as the celebrities face this year's live Bush Tucker Trial. In 2016, the contestants took part in the "Hungry Games" as part of the live trial, with Adam Thomas, Carol Vorderman, Danny Baker, Jordan Banjo, Ola Jordan and Wayne Bridge emerging victorious.  
**10.30** ITV News: Weather.  
**10.45** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Alegria Stratton. Last in the series. (R)  
**11.45** Road Rage Britain: Caught on Camera. (R)  
**12.45** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix Live Build-Up. A look ahead to today's Grand Prix. **12.35** Formula 1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix Live. The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.10** Formula 1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix Live Reaction. In-depth analysis of this afternoon's race. **4.35** Speed with Guy Martin: F1 Challenge. (R) **5.35** Channel 4 News.  
**6.05** **Film: Men in Black 3.** (2012) An alien criminal escapes from a prison on the moon and goes back in time on a mission of revenge, changing the course of history. Agent J of the top-secret Earth defence organisation follows him back to 1969, and joins forces with a younger version of his mentor Agent K to set things right. Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith, Josh Brolin and Tommy Lee Jones. Edited for language and violence.  
**8.00** **Coastal Railways with Julie Walters.** New series. The actress travels around the UK coast by train, beginning by boarding the famous Jacobite steam train for a trip along Scotland's West Highland Railway, famously featured in the Harry Potter movies. Along the way, Julie learns about herring gutting and blowing up railway lines, and meets a traditional Scottish storyteller on the Isle of Skye.  
**9.00** **Guy Martin vs the Robocar.** The presenter explores the world of automated self-driving vehicles, attempting to build one of his own in his shed. He takes a trip to Budapest for a ride in a completely autonomous vehicle, which is being tested on public roads for the first time. Finally, he heads to Silverstone, to take on a computer-controlled car in a race.  
**10.00** **Film: RoboCop.** (2014) A critically injured police officer is rebuilt as a crime-fighting cyborg, but struggles to retain free will. Sci-fi thriller remake, with Joel Kinnaman and Gary Oldman.  
**12.10** **Film: Good Kill.** (2014) Drama, starring Ethan Hawke. **2.00** The Supervet. A cocker spaniel has a bulging disc in its spine. (R) **3.00** Trump: An American Dream. (R) **3.55** Location, Location. (R) **4.50** Gillette World Sport. **5.15** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **5.45** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **5.55** Kevin Can Wait.

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.35** Whisper. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.45** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.35** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.50** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.20** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.20** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.10** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.40** Film: A Christmas Tail. (2012) **1.20** Film: Winter Wedding. (2017) Premiere. Romantic drama, starring Andrea Bowen. **3.10** Film: A Christmas to Remember. (2016) Concluded. **4.55** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest. (2006) Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp. **5.55** 5 News Update. **4.10** 5 News Update. **4.15** Film: A Christmas to Remember. (2016) Concluded. **4.55** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest. (2006) Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp. **5.55** 5 News Update.  
**7.55** 5 News Weekend.  
**8.00** **Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the ninth round of matches, including Newcastle Falcons v Gloucester at Kingston Park, Sale Sharks v Northampton Saints at the AJ Bell Stadium and Leicester Tigers v Worcester Warriors at Welford Road.  
**9.00** **Film: Fury.** (2014) An American tank crew undertakes a final dangerous mission behind enemy lines in the last months of the Second World War. Drama, starring Brad Pitt and Shia LaBeouf.  
**10.00** 5 News Update.  
**10.05** Film: Fury. (2014) Concluded.  
**11.35** Film: Flight of the Phoenix. (2004) A plane crashes in the desert and the survivors plan to return to civilisation by building a new aircraft from the wreckage. Adventure, starring Dennis Quaid and Tyrese Gibson.  
**1.40** SuperCase. **3.10** Chris Tarrant: Extreme Railway Journeys. (R) **4.00** My Mum's Hotter Than Me! (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.20** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys  
**7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Nigel Kennedy at the BBC **9.00** Shark **10.00** Walrus: Two Tonne Tusker – Natural World **11.00** Naples '44: A Wartime Diary **12.20** Nigel Kennedy at the BBC **1.20** Shark **2.20** Walrus: Two Tonne Tusker – Natural World **3.20** Close  
**ITV2**  
**12.30** Take Me Out **2.00** You've Been Framed and Famous! **3.05** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **4.05** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **6.00** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **7.00** FYI Daily **7.05** Film: Evan Almighty (2007)  
**8.05** Film: Wrath of the Titans (2012) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.10** Film: Wrath of the Titans (2012) **10.00** Family Guy **10.30** I'm a Celebrity: Extra Camp **11.30** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** Release the Hounds **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**12.05** Wycliffe **1.15** Film: Columbo: How to Dial a Murderer (1978) **2.50** Lewis **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.00** The Housewife, 49 **9.00** Endeavour **11.05** The Blonde Bombshell **1.15** Heartbeat **2.05** The Knock **3.55** Wycliffe **4.50** Judge Judy **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen  
**ITV4**  
**11.40** The Darts Show **12.45** Live Darts: Players Championship Finals. Coverage of the quarter-finals from Butlins Minehead. **5.00** Pawn Stars **6.00** River Monsters **7.00** Live Darts: Players Championship Finals. Coverage of the semi-finals and final at Butlins Minehead. **11.00** Film: Crank (2006) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Crank (2006) **12.45** The Sweeney **1.45** The Avengers **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.00** Made in Chelsea **12.00** Don't Tell the Bride **1.00** Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) **2.55** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Ghostbusters II (1989)  
**10.05** The Big Bang Theory: Who You Gonna Call? **11.05** Gogglebox **12.10** Rude Tube **1.15** First Dates **2.20** Gogglebox **3.15** Rude Tube **3.40** Hollyoaks  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Thunderbirds (2004) **12.50** The Riot Club Interview Special **1.00** The Phantom (1996) **3.00** Fletch (1985) **5.05** The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) **6.45** Miracle on 34th Street (1994) **9.00** Cowboys & Aliens (2011) **11.20** The Lincoln Lawyer (2011)

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**A Perfect Christmas, Channel 5, 3.45pm**  
An advertising executive walks past a display mannequin in a department store window every day. When she suffers a bad fall outside the shop, the dummy comes to life to help her. He turns out to be everything she has always wanted in a man – but she soon realises her dream does not bring her happiness. Festive fantasy, starring Claire Coffee and Ryan McPartlin. (2012)

**TUESDAY**  
**The Christmas Switch, Channel 5, 2pm**  
A hustler is asked to magically swap bodies with a dying man at Christmas in return for either a million dollars or having all his past sins forgiven. He chooses the money, but as he watches the other man using his body to do good deeds, he begins to reconsider what is important in his life. Fantasy, starring Brian Krause, Cedric Smith and Natasha Henstridge. (2014)



Total Recall, Friday, ITV, 11.15pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**A Bride for Christmas, Channel 5, 11.45am**  
A woman swears off serious relationships after breaking off her third failed engagement, only to run into a man who seems perfect for her a month before Christmas. However, she does not realise he has made a bet with his friends that he can persuade a woman to marry him before the holiday begins. Romantic drama, with Arielle Kebbel. (2012)

**THURSDAY**  
**Seventh Son, Channel 5, 9pm**  
Premiere. A professional monster hunter hires a young apprentice to help him track down an evil queen. Fantasy adventure, starring Ben Barnes and Jeff Bridges. (2014)

**FRIDAY**  
**Total Recall, ITV, 11.15pm**  
A construction worker pays to have fake memories of a dream holiday implanted into his brain, but discovers his mind has already been tampered with – apparently to erase his true identity as a secret agent from a colony on Mars. Paul Verhoeven's sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rachel Ticotin and Michael Ironside. (1990)

Paul looks to serve up a tasty treat in new series

Say what you like about the latest Bake Off – and there are those of us who still feel nostalgic for the BBC days despite having great respect for Channel 4's handling of the series – but the latest run was an unmitigated success.

At 11 million viewers, the final was watched by the channel's biggest audience in 32 years (the 1985 drama A Woman of Substance pipped it to the post), and the second-biggest ever in Channel 4 history. It was still behind the Beeb's 2016 final, which drew in 14.8 million, but let's not split macarons here – after all, Prue Leith did give away the winner 12 hours before transmission.

Anyway, the anchor which enabled the new cast – judge Leith, and hosts Sandi Toksvig and Noel Fielding – to merge almost seamlessly into the old format was Paul Hollywood, the blue-eyed baking pro who's been with the show since series one. He's become notorious for his strict

judging style as well as the occasional praise he doles out to those (very few) deserving bakers – the "Hollywood Handshake" has become serious currency in Bake Off circles.

The fact is, Hollywood knows his stuff. He began working at a bakery – his father's – as a teenager, and went on to work as head baker at a number of prestigious hotels and restaurants throughout the UK and in Cyprus. This was all before he found fame. During this time, he's learned a thing or two about baking.

In this new series, he prepares to impart some of that knowledge – as well as, giving this series a rather unique twist, integrating some previously unseen footage from the Bake Off tent and even the auditions phase. This means it's a must for any fans of the series, who are hungry for more helpings before the next series comes along.

Noel and Sandi crop up, too, offering their inimitable insights,

while Prue is also on hand to keep Paul in line. Think of it as a reunion, then – especially when previous contestants Val and Selasi turn up to challenge Paul to bake a pistachio and rose petal roulade. Which he does, of course, with customary panache.

Other recipes – this is a baking show, after all – include Paul's favourite pizza recipe: a courgette, lemon and thyme-topped bake, an unusual combination for which he gives credit to Venice.

He also gets out and about, visiting the famous motor racing track Silverstone where he makes a childhood-favourite burger recipe for a barbecue held in the paddock, before heading back to the Bake Off tent with Prue, where he bakes a madeira celebration cake. He hands over the decoration of this particular confection to Noel and Sandi, who oblige with a "nude" meringue finish. Expect some risqué puns about that, then.



Paul Hollywood: A Baker's Life, Monday, Channel 4, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Supershoppers Channel 4, 8.30pm**  
New series. The consumer advice show returns with Anna Richardson joined by new co-presenter Sabrina Grant to provide the lowdown on favourite brands and retailers, as well as tips on how to get the best deals. In the first edition Anna and Sabrina look at supermarkets' own ranges and investigate whether cheaper value-range products might be identical to pricier standard own-label lines. Plus, they offer advice on how to buy cheaper car insurance, and there is a face-off between cheap and expensive beauty wipes.

**TUESDAY**  
**MOTD Live BBC2, 6.55pm**  
Following their World Cup Qualifier against Bosnia on Friday, England Women welcome Kazakhstan to Colchester United's Weston Homes Community Stadium. One player who can't wait for the Group One game is England's Essex-born defender Casey Stoney. 'I'm particularly looking forward to playing in Colchester', the Liverpool star says. 'I come from Basildon so it's great to have a game in my home county.' This is the first time the two nations have met, and Mo Marley's Lionesses will be expected to

put on a good showing tonight and secure a comfortable victory, similar to that of the 6-0 thrashing of Russia in September. Nikita Parris, Jodie Taylor, Jordan Nobbs, Lucy Bronze and Toni Duggan (two) were all on target that evening in Tranmere.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**The Channel: The World's Busiest Waterway Channel 4, 9pm**  
More than 400 ships pass through the 21-mile-wide Dover Strait every day, making it, as the title of this new series suggests, the busiest waterway in the world. But the English Channel is also significant for the way it defines Britain's border with Europe – and in the wake of Brexit, these are uncertain times for the people who live and work on the waters. To offer a further insight into the life of the waterway, cameras go inside the Channel Tunnel, on board ferries and freighters and into the hidden nerve centres to see what it takes to keep the system moving. In the first episode, ferry captain Mark deals with high winds and drunk

passengers, while swimmer Naomi attempts to navigate her way through some challenging conditions.

**THURSDAY**  
**Great Canal Journeys Channel 4, 8pm**  
They may be in their 80s, but there's no stopping Timothy West and Prunella Scales. They seem to have only just got back from their latest batch of jaunts, and here they are, off again on a two-part adventure which begins in north west Portugal. They're getting up close and personal with the dramatic local landscape while travelling down the Rio Douro via an old trade route. En route the couple will stop off at the local vineyards, often perched on the nearby hillslops. It's a trip unlike any they've taken before, and includes the deepest lock in Europe and



Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast, Friday, Channel 4, 8pm

various sites of ancient historical importance. But there's a little taste of home too in the form of a traditional English gentlemen's club in Porto before a chance to follow in the footsteps of a Yorkshire-born entrepreneur.

**FRIDAY**  
**Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast Channel 4, 8pm**  
Hosts Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty are joined by Joanna Lumley in their cafe at the end of Southend Pier, and this time the menu is exclusively vegetarian, as the Ab Fab actress cooks the King of Malaysia's favourite dish, bringing back to life the tastes and smells of her childhood. Jamie prepares a spectacular M'hanncha – a spiral of filo pastry stuffed with pearl barley and butternut squash and the boys take to the road to champion British fava beans – which could help both the nation's farmers and its diet.

**Eight Days That Made Rome: The Downfall of Nero Channel 5, 9pm**  
Bethany Hughes focuses on events leading up to and after 9th June 68AD, when Emperor Nero took his life, examining how it triggered the eventual decline of the Roman Empire.

Express & Star **READER OFFER**

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**Express & Star**

**MORRISONS**

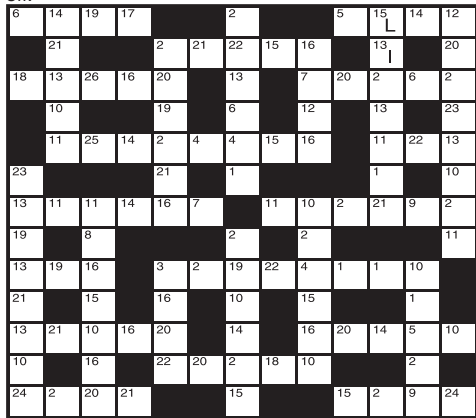


## BRAIN GYM

No.457

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
E	H	S	O	D	I	Y	C	Z	F	P	T	B	A	R	J	K	M	G	U	W	X	Q	L	N	V

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

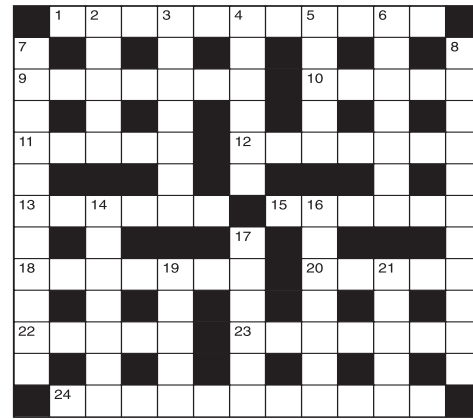
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- The old boy with the only perfume going out of date (11)
- Put on one's own for not being punctual? (7)
- Material from the French island (5)
- A language of South India (5)
- He has time to fill in his job (7)
- Threaten to finish one politician (6)
- Does he record runs in twenties? (6)
- Wishing success before tomorrow? (4,3)
- Song in really rich style (5)
- Stale in the smallest degree (5)
- Lie is wrong, certainly, but gives restful ease (7)
- Zodiacal sign not revealed to office workers (11)

## Down

- Colour for brother to possess (5)
- Enthusiastic applause for egg production? (7)
- Corrects me on rising to conclusions (6)
- Officer doesn't need the Spanish punctuation mark (5)
- Retains more offensive order (7)
- The bird presumably had something to sing about in the morning (11)
- Insect on trial in international sport (4,7)
- Irreligious, but in favour of temple (7)
- He surfaces after work, of course (7)
- Organ permitted to find loophole (6)
- Put off animals from going inland eternally (5)
- Stir or get up to exercise (5)



## Quick Clues:

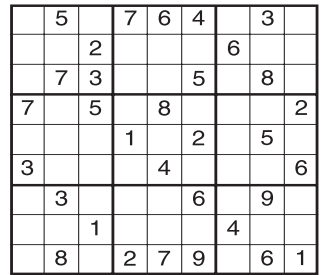
## Across

- Besides (11)
- Horseman's iron (7)
- Granted (5)
- Anoint (5)
- Canadian province (7)
- Flippancy (6)
- Slumbering (6)
- Excess (7)
- Characteristic (5)
- Decree (5)
- Exhilaration (7)
- Enterprise (11)

## Down

- Combine (5)
- Flood (7)
- Set at work (6)
- Strength (5)
- Daydream (7)
- Permanent (11)
- Very inefficient (11)
- Rendering (7)
- Relapse (3-4)
- Acquiesce (6)
- Supple (5)
- Foreign (5)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

7	3	5	4	9	1	8	6	2
6	4	9	8	2	7	5	3	1
1	8	2	5	6	3	4	7	9
3	5	6	9	8	2	7	1	4
9	2	7	6	1	4	3	5	8
4	1	8	3	7	5	2	9	6
5	7	1	2	4	9	6	8	3
8	9	4	7	3	6	1	2	5
2	6	3	1	5	8	9	4	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Arranger; 5 Cool; 9 Purr; 10 Strident; 11 Right; 12 Replace; 13 Temperateness; 18 Apparent; 19 Goal; 20 Protege; 21 David; 22 Rake; 23 Standing.  
 Down: 2 Routine; 3 Airship; 4 Entertainment; 6 Operate; 7 Letters; 8 Simple; 13 Trapper; 14 Mapbook; 15 Earned; 16 Niggard; 17 Station.  
 QUICK - Across: 1 Sanctify; 5 Acid; 9 Bye; 10 Accident; 11 Smart; 12 Talents; 13 Play upon words; 18 Interest; 19 Thin; 20 Bondage; 21 Solid; 22 Elan; 23 Astonish.  
 Down: 2 Abysmal; 3 Clearly; 4 Facetiousness; 6 Cleaner; 7 Detests; 8 Pillow; 13 Pliable; 14 Antenna; 15 Uproar; 16 Outworn; 17 Detties.

## Quiz

- Which disorder is also called word blindness?
- What is a dunlin?
- In which children's TV series would you find Alderney and Tobermory?
- Which singer was born Declan McManus?
- Which US President was assassinated in Buffalo?
- To which family does the lovebird belong?
- Which Vicar of Dibley star posed nude for Esquire magazine?
- Which art-form was regulated in the US by the Hays Office?
- Of what is Ceres the largest known example?
- According to Arthurian legend, who was Sir Galahad's father?

## Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Benjamin Franklin; 2 Luxembourg; 3 J Edgar Hoover; 4 Polish; 5 Propaganda; 6 Aaron; 7 Muskrat; 8 One; 9 California; 10 George Eliot.

## Niner: METAPHORS

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

34564  
14925  
57899428

gives a French author,  
gives a French sculptor,  
gives a French painter.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



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# Friends reunited for special birthday

WE have been friends since middle school, sharing the joys and tribulations of teenage years and later weddings and children.

And now we were all sharing a special birthday! For a few years now we had abandoned present buying for birthdays and Christmas and just arranged a meal or break away. And this weekend it was a special one.

We were staying at the five-star St David's Hotel and Spa which has a prominent position on Cardiff Bay's waterfront and it's a stone's throw from the city centre. The hotel is striking with its glass fronted structure on the edge of the bay.

Across the Severn Estuary we could see where we planned to spend our evening at Michelin-starred Restaurant James Sommerin in Penarth.

The restaurant is in a prime position on the seafrost with contemporary and chic decor, including the use of Welsh slate, and crisp white table covers.

## PRIVATE

There is also a private dining room and Chef's table. There is a huge window from the main restaurant to the kitchen, where you watch the chefs at work.

In a short amount of time James has amassed an array of accolades and just two days after our visit the restaurant won four Rosettes at The AA Hospitality Awards 2017.

Proud of his Welsh heritage James, who runs the restaurant with his wife Louise, uses the finest ingredients, locally sourced where possible. The food was exquisite.

We went for the six-course testing menu including matching wine. The options for the evening were the six courses, nine courses and also the Surprise Menu when you leave your dining experience in James' hands. It is then a bespoke menu.

Striking and imposing – Cardiff Bay's waterfront



Each course was expertly presented and a lovely touch was that the chefs including the man himself came to our table to run through the dishes.

The six courses started with beetroot, feta and pine-nut; followed by venison with carrot, tarragon and mushroom and then langoustine with samphire and spices; guinea fowl with sweetcorn, truffle and potato. For dessert there was pear with cinnamon, flap-jack and hazelnut and apple with puff pastry, caramel and vanilla.

After the meal, it was back to our hotel which is set on Cardiff Bay's waterfront.

Restaurant has panoramic views across the bay



Our rooms with balconies had views across the estuary and it was wonderful to watch the boats and yachts sailing by.

Relaxation was certainly the name of the weekend with Marina Spa being most inviting with relaxation pools, hydrotherapy multi jet marine pools, a sauna, gym, treatment rooms and a relaxation suite, whilst enjoying the beautiful views overlooking Cardiff Bay.

The hotel restaurant is beautiful and airy with lovely neutral and teal shades and floor-to-floor windows with panoramic views across the bay.

The Admiral St David draws inspiration from the eclectic food culture and bold flavours of Australasia and Asia-Pacific, while looking closer to home for the best of seasonal Welsh produce.

After breakfast at the Admiral we wandered around Cardiff Bay which used to be known as Tiger Bay. It has been transformed with the Giant Wheel, restaurants and bars and the Senedd – home to the Welsh Government. Next door is the Wales Millennium Centre. There is also the Norwegian Church which Roald Dahl had attended as a child and is now Cafe Norsk.

LISA BAILEY

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# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
BUYING AND  
LETTING

27  
Dudley Chronicle Thursday, November 23, 2017

## Double-fronted cottage with open views is spacious

An attractive double-fronted end of terrace cottage, Woodbine Cottage, 73 Stourbridge Road, Hagley, lies has deceptively spacious accommodation.

Being well maintained and improved, it is for sale through Wakeman Chartered Surveyors and Estate Agents at £325,000.

The property is an attractive residence occupying a pleasant and convenient location with splendid open views to the front to Wychbury. It is conveniently placed for amenities, with shopping in Hagley village together with access to Stourbridge, surrounding centres and Midland link motorways.

It has double glazing and gas central heating.

A spokesman for the selling agents said: "An internal inspection of the property is recommended in order that it may be fully appreciated."

In more detail it has an entrance hallway with a quarry tiled floor. The lounge has a brick fireplace, a beamed ceiling and a staircase leading to the first floor, plus a cellar off.

The dining room has an attractive fireplace and the kitchen includes an island unit, timber working surfaces, part tiled walls, a New World gas range, an integrated washing machine, a dishwasher, fridge and freezer. The kitchen also features a beamed ceiling and tiled flooring and has two sets of twin doors to the rear garden. There is a rear lobby with floor tiling and a cloakroom/WC with tiled flooring.

Upstairs, front facing bedroom one has a fireplace and a built-in cupboard, plus an en-suite shower room. Bedroom two has a fireplace and again is positioned to the front of this charming home. Bedroom three is positioned to the rear.

The bathroom has a rolled top bath, a pedestal wash hand basin, low level WC, a towel rail style radiator, tiled flooring and part tiling to the walls.

Outside, there is parking to the side of the property plus a stone chipping driveway providing car parking. The gardens are easily maintained to both the front and rear. They incorporate lawn, borders, shrubs, a paved patio, a decking area and artificial grass in the rear garden.

HAGLEY £325,000

### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Wakeman

TEL: 01384 459999

EMAIL: [dudley@wakeman-online.com](mailto:dudley@wakeman-online.com)



### KEY FEATURES

Double fronted terraced cottage

Splendid views to Wychbury

Well maintained & improved

3 bedrooms

Bathroom & en-suite



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## A superbly-presented detached property

**DUDLEY**  
**£329,950**

A wonderfully presented detached property in Hillmeads Drive, Dudley, lies in the popular Oakham area of town.

It is for sale through Taylors at £329,950.

This good-sized family home benefits from gas central heating and double glazing.

Its accommodation briefly comprises of a spacious entrance hall, a well-appointed living room, a dining room, a breakfast kitchen, a study, a guest WC, a utility, four bedrooms, an en-suite to the master, a family bathroom, a fantastic enclosed rear garden, a double garage and there is a driveway to the front.

Contact the selling agents, Taylors, at their local branch office on 01902 880888.



## This extended house comes with five good bedrooms

**HALESOWEN**  
**£240,000**

<<<

Having five bedrooms, this extended and extremely spacious family home in Valley Road, Hurst Green, Halesowen, is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £240,000 with no chain.

Having good-sized accommodation throughout, this briefly comprises a reception hall, an extended lounge, an extended sitting room/dining room, a fitted kitchen, a utility area, five bedrooms and a re-fitted shower room to the first floor.

The property also benefits from having a large driveway, a garage, gas central heating, double glazing and good-sized mature garden to the rear.

In more detail the extended lounge has views over the rear garden, as does the extended sitting room/dining room.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667.

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**SEDGLEY, Off Wolverhampton Road**

●●SEDGLEY BESPOKE PROPERTY WITH THE WOW FACTOR WHICH RARELY COMES ON SALE!●● Exquisitely presented PERIOD DETACHED FAMILY home situated on its own private drive in a sought after, secluded & unique location in Sedgley. Set within sweeping gardens & with STUNNING views, this generously sized property has so much to offer. Boasting entrance hallway, three reception rooms, handcrafted kitchen-diner, guest W/C, utility room, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, two bathrooms, double garage and enormous gravelled driveway to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:TBA. SEDGLEY



**KINGSWINFORD, Cross Street**

A DECEPTIVE MODERN LINK-DETACHED FAMILY HOME within Kingswinford's old quarter, with a LARGE, BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN, BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and, offering a GENEROUS layout including THREE LARGE BEDROOMS Master with EN-SUITE and walk in wardrobe. EPC D



**UPPER GORNAL, Eve Lane**

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT - Nearing completion; SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated (underfloor & radiator), double glazed DETACHED house comprising THREE BEDROOMS (one with shower room en suite), bathroom, and to the Lower Ground Floor a cloakroom together with magnificent 25'9" through kitchen/ living/dining room THREE CAR PARKING TO REAR. SAP TBC SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £575,000

£239,950

Offers in the region of £220,000



**UPPER GORNAL/SEDGLEY BORDER, Plot 3, Adj. to 23 Vale Street**

Construction has now commenced on a gas centrally heated, double glazed DETACHED BUNGALOW short walk from major bus routes comprising: hall, store, lounge/dining room, kitchen (with various integrated appliances) two bedrooms, bathroom, garage, parking for 2 vehicles, garden. Plans available (by appointment) - at Sedgley Office SAP: TBA

Offers in the region of £210,000



**WOMBOURNE, Planks Lane**

AN IMPRESSIVE SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME, set back beyond the GENEROUS FRONT DRIVEWAY with GARAGE and a GOOD SIZED LEVEL & SUNNY REAR GARDEN, superbly located within Wombourne village, offering a VERY WELL PRESENTED layout including THREE LARGE BEDROOMS. EPC D

Now available

£209,950



**GORNAL, Louise Street**

AN EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME with FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS well located in the heart of Gornal Village close to village shops, offering an EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS layout of WELL MAINTAINED accommodation. With DRIVEWAY and to the rear enjoying a very pleasant garden. EPC TBA

£199,950



**KINGSWINFORD, Standhills Road**

Enjoying a private and sunny rear garden, this SUBSTANTIAL SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE offers a VERY WELL PROPORTIONED and GENEROUS layout which includes THREE LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS. With DRIVEWAY, INTEGRAL GARAGE and the property is very well placed for local schools, shops and other amenities. EPC D

Offers in the Region Of £184,950



**WOODSETTON, Wren Street**

Situated in the extremely popular area of Woodsetton, this traditional semi-detached family home has much to offer. Being part centrally heated and double glazed this good-sized property also benefits from entrance porch, hallway, living room, dining room, kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden, garage, with parking to front and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. ●●MINE SEARCH AVAILABLE●● EPC:TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £174,950



**KINGSWINFORD, Lydgate Road**

Very well placed, enjoying a LONG FRONT/SIDE DRIVEWAY, CAR PORT, SECTIONAL GARAGE and a delightful level and private rear garden, this MODERN SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW is superbly located and offers GENEROUS layout which includes TWO GOOD BEDROOMS. EPC D

No upward chain

£169,950



**KINGSWINFORD, Rose Avenue**

Very well placed within a small residential cul-de-sac just round the corner from local shops and regular public transport services, this MODERN SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW enjoys a VERY LARGE REAR GARDEN and an 80 ft PLUS DRIVEWAY, all enhancing the SPACIOUS TWO BEDROOM, layout with CONSERVATORY. EPC E

No upward chain

£164,950



**LOWER GORNAL, Wood Road**

A delightfully presented semi-detached property located in the popular area of LOWER GORNAL in Dudley. Benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing with a TWO STOREY EXTENSION to rear this FOUR BEDROOM home also boasts, hall, living room, dining room, breakfast-kitchen, guest W/C, rear porch, family bathroom, attractive gardens to front and rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC:D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £155,000



**SEDGLEY, Warren Drive, Northway**

A fantastically presented modern and stylish started home situated on the extremely popular Northway development in Sedgley. Benefiting from entrance hall, living room, kitchen-diner, family bathroom, TWO BEDROOMS, garage, enclosed rear garden and parking to fore. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £149,950



**DUDLEY, Ripley Grove**

Meticulously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed intermediate 'starter home' with superb distant views at head of cul-de-sac briefly comprising: hall, fitted cloakroom, kitchen with range of high gloss cream finish units & integrated appliances, living/dining room (with double French doors out to the garden), store. Two double bedrooms (one with double wardrobes), shower room (potential bathroom). Delightful rear garden, parking. EPC C. SEDGLEY.

WAS £150,000, NOW £147,000



**DUDLEY, Haslingden Crescent**

An extremely well presented modern intermediate property which is ideal for first time buyers or movers looking to downsize. Benefiting from entrance hall, guest W/C, fitted-kitchen, lounge-diner, TWO BEDROOMS, double glazing, gas central heating, attractive bathroom with enclosed rear garden and parking. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £145,000



**KINGSWINFORD, Standhills Road**

A LARGE & SUBSTANTIAL FAMILY MID TOWN HOUSE well placed within a much sought after location, which offers a GENEROUS and VERY WELL PROPORTIONED layout which includes THREE LARGE BEDROOMS. With a front garden and a large rear garden which enjoys a very pleasant rear aspect. EPC E

No upward chain

£145,000



**TIPTON, Lea Green Avenue, Foxyards**

A wonderfully presented semi-detached starter home on the desirable Foxyards estate in Tipton. As well as having off road parking and garage this TWO BEDROOM also has fitted-kitchen, living room and attractive family bathroom, along with enclosed rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. ●●MINE SEARCH AVAILABLE●● EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £134,950



**LOWER GORNAL, Abbey Street**

A tastefully presented traditional terraced property located in the much highly popular area of Lower Gornal and within walking distance of Gornal Village. Benefiting from double glazing and gas central heating this TWO BEDROOM starter home also comprises: two reception room, kitchen, utility, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden with garage and parking to rear. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950



**NETHERTON, Heath Road**

This EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED, THREE BEDROOM HOME comprises: Hall, Lovely Sitting Room, STUNNING KITCHEN with Dining Area & Integrated Appliances, Three Large First Floor Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom, Excellent Driveway, Attractive Garden. EPC C

£114,950





## Family home is much bigger than it looks

**OLDBURY**  
**£204,950**

This deceptively spacious three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Kendal Rise, Oldbury, lies in a sought-after residential area.

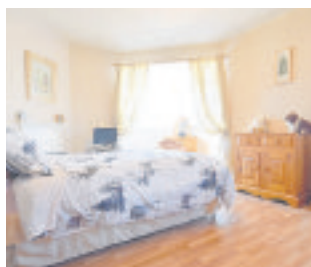
It is for sale through Tom Giles at £204,950 with no chain.

It is in a quiet, yet convenient location within walking distance of shops, schools and recreational facilities.

With majority double glazing and gas central heating, it has an entrance hall and cloakroom/WC, a lounge and dining room, kitchen and side verandah, three bedrooms and a shower room.

There is also a garage and parking space and established gardens to the front and rear.

Contact Tom Giles on 0121 552 6171.



## Very flexible accommodation on offer at this semi-detached

**EDGBASTON**  
**£324,950**

<<<

This superb three-bedroomed semi-detached house in City Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, has flexible living space and is ideal as a long-term family home.

Located close to the city centre and commuter links, it is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £324,950.

The property has a ample parking for several vehicles and is on a corner plot with a garage and further parking space. It has a generous hallway, a living room with a feature fireplace and unique bay window adding real character. The second living room is bathed in light from the double doors, while a conservatory has views and access to the garden. The kitchen has space for a table.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.

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# AUCTION

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**9 Mountbatten Road, Bentley**  
2 Bed Semi Detached House  
Guide: £72,000+ (plus fees)



**34 Lodge Road, Wednesbury**  
2 Bed Semi Detached House  
Guide: £19,000-£24,000 (plus fees)



**57 Winchester Rd, West Bromwich**  
2 Bed Semi Detached House  
Guide: £55,000+ (plus fees)



**17A Glentworth Gardens, Dunstall**  
3 Bed Detached Bungalow  
Guide: £87,000+ (plus fees)



**10 Ash Drive, West Bromwich**  
3 Bed Mid-Terraced House  
Guide: £40,000+ (plus fees)



**17 Hillside Road, Erdington**  
3 Bed Link Detached House  
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



**23 Crossgate Road, Dudley**  
1 Bed Ground Floor Flat  
Guide: £30,000+ (plus fees)



**80 Longdon Road, Knowle**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: £200,000+ (plus fees)



**44 Montague Road, Erdington**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



**124 George Road, Oldbury**  
2 Bed Residential Investment  
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Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

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THORNLEIGH Lower Gornal

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EPC rating: D



MASLIN DRIVE, Hurst Hill

Price £149,950

- SOLD in 1 week
- THREE bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Contemporary kitchen

EPC rating: D



MOAT ROAD Tipton

Price £144,950

- Three bed semi-detached
- Refurbished throughout
- Luxury dining kitchen
- Tastefully decorated

EPC rating: E



STICKLEY LANE

Price £109,950

- TWO bed end-terrace
- Modern kitchen
- South facing garden
- Ideal first time buy

EPC rating: E



HARTLAND ROAD

Price £199,950

- Excellent size detached
- TWO reception rooms
- Three bedrooms
- South facing rear garden

EPC rating: D



CEDARWOOD ROAD

Price £184,950

- A detached Bungalow
- Two bedrooms
- Office space/study area
- Conservatory to the rear

EPC rating: D



CHARNWOOD AVENUE,

Price £279,950

- A beautiful 'dormer' house
- Sedgley location
- FOUR bedrooms
- Full of potential

EPC rating: F



LARCH GROVE

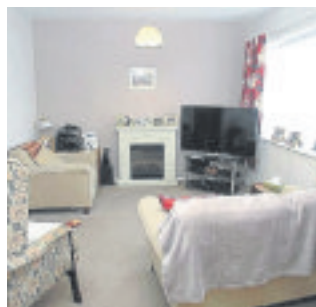
Price £259,950

A beautifully presented 'David Payne' modern FOUR BEDROOM detached property in an enviable and quiet cul-de-sac in Sedgley, having spacious and inviting accommodation, including a modern kitchen, utility, downstairs wc, lounge and dining room.

EPC rating: C







## An appealing property with a very pretty rear garden

STOURBRIDGE  
£139,950

<<<

Coming with a pretty rear garden, this most appealing, three-bedroomed end town house in Alpertown Drive Wollescote, Stourbridge, is for sale through Taylors at £139,950 with no chain.

Having lots to offer its next owner, the home has gas central heating and double glazing, a porch, entrance hall, guest cloakroom/WC, sitting room, dining room, a modern kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

To the front is a fore garden and open parking.

In more detail the reception hall has stairs off to the first floor. The sitting room has a window to the front and a feature fireplace. The dining room has a lovely view of the rear garden.

To book that important viewing, contact Taylors on 01384 395555 or visit [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk)



## A detached family home in a nice area

HALESOWEN  
£240,000

A spacious detached family home in a popular and convenient location in Hagley Road, Halesowen, lies close to all amenities.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £240,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises of a reception hall, a large lounge/dining room, a breakfast room, a sitting room, a kitchen, a downstairs cloakroom/WC with four good-sized bedrooms and a bathroom to the first floor.

The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, a private rear garden and gated driveway to the front. In more detail the large lounge/dining room has a fireplace.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667.

# K. Stuart Swash

## AUCTION - 12TH DECEMBER 2017



### 51 TURLS HILL ROAD, SEDGLEY, DY3 1HQ

Ripe for refurbishment - generous corner plot, Two Reception, Kitchen, Four Beds, Bathroom, Gas CH, Garage, Outbuilding. Epc: TBA.

Guide £110,000 / £115,000.

Viewing: Friday & Saturday, 24th & 25th November @ 9.45 a.m.



### LAWLEY ROAD, BILSTON, WV14 0NB

Residential Building Land. Planning Permission granted for 4 Semi-Detached Three Bedroomed Houses - cul-de-sac location. Established residential area.

Guide £115,000 / £120,000.



### 62 COTON ROAD, PENN, WV4 5AT

Attractive individual Bungalow - some modernisation needed, 18ft Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH., Basement Stores, Garage, terraced Garden. Epc: TBA.

Guide £145,000

Viewing: Friday & Saturday, 24th & 25th November @ 11.00 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Viewing of all Lots at own risk. Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

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## Stunning modern property is packed with appeal

This stunning modern four-bedroomed detached family home in Kirkpatrick Drive, Wordsley, lies in a quiet cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Hunters at £280,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, lounge, dining room, modern fitted breakfast kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms and a bathroom.

WORDSLEY  
£280,000

Outside there is a low-maintenance private rear garden, driveway and garage to the rear. To the front of the property there is a lawn with a decorative shrub border, a path leading to the front door and a gate providing access to the rear garden.

The attractive entrance hall has

stairs to the first floor and a storage cupboard and the cloakroom/WC off. The lounge has a bay window to the front, an electric fire and double doors to the dining room, which in turn has doors to the garden.

The kitchen/breakfast room has a gas hob with stainless steel cooker hood over, space for a fridge/freezer, plumbing for a washing machine and dishwasher, recess spotlights and a window to the rear.

Contact Hunters on 01384 443331 or visit [www.hunters.com](http://www.hunters.com)





## This two-bed apartment is ideal for many buyers

EARLS KEEP  
£119,950

<<<

A well presented and well proportioned two-bedroomed modern first floor flat in Garrick Close, Earls Keep, Dudley, is for sale through Wakeman at £119,950 with no chain.

Having gas central heating and double glazing, it is an ideal buy as an investment or for those wanting to downsize, or for a first-time buyer.

It has a communal entrance hall, an entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom one with en-suite, bedroom two, a spacious bathroom, communal gardens and two allocated parking spaces.

This home lies in a popular and established residential area, convenient for Dudley and with a wide range of amenities readily available.

In more detail the home has a video entry phone system.

Call 01384 459999.



## Well-presented and large family home

STOURBRIDGE  
£375,000

Relatively new to the property market, this beautifully presented and rather large, detached family home in Belfry Drive, Wollaston, Stourbridge, is for sale through Taylors at £375,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance hall, a guests cloakroom/WC, a sitting room, a dining room, a family breakfast kitchen, a utility, four bedrooms (master with an en-suite) and house bathroom.

The home lies in an end position with an additional parking space, a double width block paved drive, a garage and a lovely enclosed level rear garden.

Contact Taylors on 01384 395555.

# Wakeman

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7 SUMMERHILL ROAD £167,950  
COSELEY  
•Detached house  
•Three bedrooms  
•Extended kitchen  
•Gas central heating & double glazing  
•EPC RATING E



27 DUDLEY ROAD SEDGLEY  
O/A £675,000  
•Exceptional individual detached family home, Set within well tended walled gardens  
•Spacious five bedroom accommodation over three floors  
•Impressive conservatory, three reception rooms, high quality fittings throughout  
•Extensive breakfast kitchen, utility room and playroom  
•EPC RATING C



7 BOUNDARY CRESCENT, LOWER GORNAL £187,500  
•Extended & considerably improved semi detached house  
•Well maintained accommodation with three bedrooms plus attic room  
•Added benefit of a sun room, bar, utility area and sauna room  
•Rear garden with decking on two levels and swimming pool  
•EPC RATING TBC



27 GARRICK CLOSE EARLS KEEP, DUDLEY £119,950  
•Modern first floor flat  
•Two bedrooms  
•Communal grounds  
•Two allocated parking spaces  
•EPC RATING C  
NO UPWARD CHAIN



'WOODBINE COTTAGE', 73 STOURBRIDGE ROAD, HAGLEY £325,000  
•Attractive double fronted end of terrace cottage  
•Bedroom one with en-suite shower room, two further bedrooms  
•Well maintained & improved double glazed accommodation  
•Car parking to side of property with easily maintained rear garden  
•EPC RATING D



11E VICARAGE ROAD WEST, WOODSETTON £179,950  
•Spacious and well maintained modern detached house  
•Three bedrooms with en suite shower room to bedroom one  
•Dining kitchen with adjacent utility area, conservatory  
•Private level rear garden & ample off road parking on driveway  
•EPC RATING C



109 DUDLEY ROAD O/A £114,950 SEDGLEY  
•Mid terraced house  
•Three bedrooms  
•Well presented & improved  
•Enlarged kitchen & re-fitted bathroom  
•EPC RATING E  
44 BUFFERY ROAD £99,500 DUDLEY  
•Improved mid terraced house  
•Two bedrooms  
•Ideal for first time buyer  
•Two reception rooms  
•EPC RATING D  
NO UPWARD CHAIN



28 JEWS LANE, UPPER GORNAL £239,950  
•Modern four bedroom detached house  
•Well maintained & attractively presented  
•Two reception rooms, utility area & re-fitted kitchen  
•Ample off road parking & level easily maintained rear garden  
•EPC RATING D



81 NEW STREET GORNAL WOOD O/A £174,950  
•Traditional style detached house  
•Extended three bedroom accommodation  
•Potential for further enhancement  
•Wide road frontage with ample off road parking  
•EPC RATING E  
NO UPWARD CHAIN



BUILDING PLOT ADJ 54 DEEPDALE LANE £98,000 GORNAL  
•Individual building plot  
•Planning consent for a five bedroom detached dwelling  
•Planning application number P15/1679  
•Popular and established residential area  
•Excellent views to the rear  
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•Detached office building  
•Flexible office accommodation  
•Well maintained and carpeted  
•Car parking for several vehicles  
•EPC RATING D

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# MOTORING

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO THE  
BEST CARS ON  
THE MARKET

## Sporty CX-3 from Mazda also practical family car

By John Griffiths

**In a world which seems to have a surfeit of compact SUV-styled cars, daring to be different is the best way to survive.**

It was inevitable, really, that with so many models to choose from someone would go further than pumping up a hatchback – and the honours fall to Mazda with the introduction of a GT Sport model as the new flagship of its CX-3 range.

It adds sports trim and extra equipment to add further appeal to what is already one of best-handling cars in its class. And it comes with the most powerful engine options, too.

The result is the sort of taut, rewarding drive you'd expect from a hot hatchback combined with the practicality, raised seating and good visibility – the criteria which has inspired the British motorists' love affair with SUV looks, even though few go the whole hog and demand more expensive to run four wheel drive.

### Limited

The demand for these cars continues to run well ahead of the market average, so Mazda's decision to produce a stand-out flagship model is a sound one even though numbers will be limited to 500.

The test car was a GT Sport powered by a 2.0 litre, 120Ps petrol engine driving the front wheels via a six-speed gearbox (there is an auto option).

While not the most powerful 2.0 litre around, it does have 204NM of torque and in a car this size that's plenty for lively, real world performance without getting noisy or feeling strained. The 0 to 62mph is a fraction in a brisk nine seconds.

That's balanced by official (laboratory tested) average fuel consumption of 47.9mpg and 137g.km of CO2.

Most drivers should be able to achieve something reasonably near that average: the test car return almost 40mpg on a 90-minute test run along mainly bendy country roads, with frequent gear changes, as I exploited its handling dynamics.

That's the CX-3's winning formula: it's not just a practical car it's a fun car, too, with quick, accurate steering, roll-free cornering and excellent roadholding. It's a ride deserving of the GT tag, while ironing out the bumps to cosset passengers.

Like all CX-3s, the GT now has Mazda's



The GT Sport offers a class-leading driving experience and with its added sporty looks will add to its appeal to the enthusiast

G-Vectoring Control, which optimises torque to each front wheel during cornering to produce a safer, more dynamic and more comfortable driving experience. The suspension and damping have also been tweaked.

The electric power steering is nicely weighted to give driver feedback through the new steering wheel, with remote buttons for thumb/finger operation of functions from audio to cruise control.

Mazda is a driver-focussed brand, with its 'SKYACTIV' technology not only producing highly efficient engines but also extending to the body and chassis. It concentrates on producing a lighter but stronger structure, aiding fuel economy while contributing to its sharp handling.

Braking is effective, too, with ventilated discs all round.

The test car was priced at £22,895 and came with premium features such as heated nappa leather seats, and a sporty aerodynamic kit

including modest bumper extensions, front side and rear airdam skirts with subtle silver inserts, and a black roof spoiler.

It also comes with a premium Bose sound system, electric windows and mirrors, LED lights, automatic lights and wipers, climate control, cruise control and a central colour touchscreen to control audio, navigation and full connectivity functions

It also came with a head-up display (showing speed and current speed limit) which means the driver doesn't need to look away from the road, and a reversing camera.

It also distinguishes itself with larger (18-inch) tyres with lower profile tyres.

The CX-3s interior has gone up a grade across the road, with the flagship GT Sport representing the ultimate choice.

The ambience is complemented by a quieter ride, with strategic placing of extra soundproofing material and new engine mounts. Even the GT's low profile 215/50 tyres

don't transmit their road noise to the cabin. Although classified as a 'compact' SUV, the CX-3's cabin is well designed for people, with head and legroom for five adults plus 350 litres of load space (1,260 litres with the rear seats folded).

The CX-3 range starts from £17,795, with diesel versions powered by a torquey 105PS unit capable of more than 70mpg. There are four wheel drive versions with either the diesel or 2.0, 50Ps petrol power plants.

The GT Sport offers a class-leading driving experience and with its added sporty looks will add to its appeal to the enthusiast. But it's excellent dynamics and roadholding also make it a relaxing experience too, as such abilities are a primary safety feature (on top of the standard fitments such as multiple airbags and electronic safety aids).

Plus its high seating position (for easier access and better visibility) and spacious cabin make it a practical family car too.

## Golf R add-on makes car better for track duties



**Volkswagen's ballistic Golf R is now available with even more shove, thanks to the availability of the new Performance Pack.**

The £2,300 upgrade package is available on both hatchback and estate versions of the Golf R that have been specified with VW's seven-speed DSG gearbox.

Enhancements include an improved R-Performance brake system, which saves 2kg over the standard brakes, while the regular Golf R's 155mph top speed has also been derestricted – meaning the hatch can now hit 166mph, while the estate maxes out at 168mph.

Also included are new 19-inch "Spielberg" alloy wheels, while the hatchback model also gains a new rear spoiler lip that increases downforce by 20kg.

Being introduced alongside the new Performance Pack is an optional titanium sports exhaust package from Akrapovic. This is available on both manual and automatic versions of the Golf R, and is priced at £2,975.

With the Akrapovic exhaust system fitted, the Golf R gains round tailpipes as opposed to the standard oval ones. The valve control system is also adjusted to change as the driver switches between the car's four driving modes – Eco, Normal, Sport and Race.

Equipped with the Performance Pack, the Golf R hatchback is priced from £36,295, while the hatchback rises to £38,000.

## Isuzu reveals special Huntsman package for D-Max pick-up



**Isuzu has revealed the Huntsman Accessory Pack for its D-Max pick-up truck.**

The optional extra costs £5,995 and is targeted at hunters, in particular with its lockable, out-of-sight storage for firearms. There's also extra bed space for dog boxes and other equipment.

Only available for the Utah Double Cab, it also comes with a covered bed, aluminium under guard and rear differential protector, and a protective mat set.

Styling changes come in the form of 18-inch black alloy wheels with Pirelli all-terrain tyres and de-chroming of parts such as the wing mirrors and door handles, which are now black.

The 1.9-litre diesel engine can be specified with either the manual or automatic gearbox,

with three paint options of green, black and grey.

For an extra £1,000, buyers can option the Huntsman Plus Pack, which adds a Pedders off-road suspension kit. Customers can also choose from various optional extras, including bespoke Huntsman leather upholstery and a selection of dog boxes.

Standard equipment on the Isuzu D-Max includes a high-mounted towing bar with a 3.5-tonne capacity, a one-tonne payload limit and full four-wheel-drive.

As standard the D-Max Utah Double Cab starts at £25,149, which increases to £31,144 for the Huntsman Accessory Pack and £32,144 for the Huntsman Plus Pack. Both are available to order now.





# Sporty touches but a family lugger

By Ian Donaldson

Years before Peugeot bought Vauxhall earlier this year the two companies had been working together behind the scenes – on the car you're now looking at, for one.

Or looking at it if you had X-ray eyes. For the new Vauxhall Grandland X appears nothing like Peugeot's recent 3008 but beneath their unalike metalwork is more or less the same car.

Same platform (the really expensive bit to design), same engines and same factory – they're both built in France. Starting from pretty well the same price too; £22,495 Peugeot plays £22,310 Vauxhall.

## Booming

So why would Vauxhall bother? Well, the SUV market has gone daft for new models in recent years and the Grandland X is predicted to be the company's second biggest seller to private buyers, behind only the Corsa.

With a recent downturn in new car sales only one area is still booming. Yes, you've guessed; it's the medium-sized SUV market where the Grandland X now appears.

As well as taking on the sister-under-the-skin Peugeot 3008 the Grandland X is up against the formidable Nissan Qashqai, the biggest seller by far and confidently expected to stay that way, even by its competitors.

So what strengths does Vauxhall bring to the mid-sized SUV party? Well, it's clear how Vauxhall wants us to view its new baby, with so many uses of the word 'sporty' in the press presentation you soon lost count.

Oh, and the creases on the side let you feel 'speed and acceleration', according to its



There's plenty of space for luggage

designer. And the front is upright and proud. Don't you just love designer-speak.

Judge for yourself, of course, but you might agree the end result is a car that looks neat and modern and hides quite nicely its purpose in life, to transport a growing family and their luggage in some comfort and at not too high a price.

Talking prices, the Grandland X starts with Tech Line trim from the already mentioned £22,310, with 1.2 litre 128 bhp petrol engine, moves through SE (£22,485) and Sport Nav (£24,595) to the ultimate version, Elite Nav which starts at £26,660.

Engine choices are currently limited to the 1.2 litre petrol and a 1.6 litre with the same bhp but much more pulling power, as is the way with diesels. Automatic transmissions are optional with either.

Vauxhall thinks most buyers will take the petrol route, where they'll find a willing power unit that takes the Grandland X to 117mph and to 62mph in 11.1 seconds, while returning an



The car looks neat and modern and does its job well in transporting a growing family

official 52.3mpg and 124g/km in the official tests.

Take a dearer diesel and those figures are 117mph and 11.8 seconds – much the same as the petrol model, but with much better promised economy at 70.6mpg average and less pollution too, with 104g/km.

Whichever engine you choose there's quite a bit of car to pull along, measuring 4,477mm long. A benefit is a boot that takes 514 litres with the rear seats in place and a more than useful 1,652 with them folded.

But you must open a door and slip behind the wheel to discover the biggest difference between the Peugeot and Vauxhall approach to family motoring with dashboards that show divergent design philosophies.

Where the Peugeot is an exercise in button denying modernity the Grandland X looks more conventionally smart, with less pressing of fingers on screens and more physical contact with switches.

And all the better for it, I'd say, as you try to adjust the radio to knock the cabin

temperature down a degree or two. Out on the road the Grandland X feels anything but sporty, the petrol engine doing its best and staying quietly in the background but a long way from inspiring you to take the long way home.

Should you encounter slippery roads on the way there's an option of IntelliGrip traction control that does its best to mimic four-wheel drive by managing the power going to the front wheels; there won't be a 4x4 because the customers don't want it, says Vauxhall.

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# Countryman is capturing followers

By Graham Breeze

If you are old enough to remember the arrival of the original Mini you probably detest the new-look Countryman but a new generation of buyers is snapping up the latest model.

The iconic Mini brand captured the hearts of millions but there was always a hint of controversy when a Countryman version was introduced. After all that wasn't what the Mini was all about.

Fuel rationing after the Suez crisis prompted the arrival of small cars such as Morris Mini Minor and Austin Seven in 1959. It was 1961 before it became Austin Mini and 1969 before Mini became a stand-alone brand – the very year I bought my first vehicle, a second-hand Mini Van.

Mini broke the motoring mould with a transverse-engine, front wheel drive layout and incredibly compact dimensions. It revolutionised the small car market and became the best-selling British car in history.

We simply loved the Mini brand, but all good things come to an end and by 2000 the affair was over and production stopped. That was until BMW relaunched in 2001 with larger dimensions and a controversial pallet of personalisation options.

It may not have met with universal approval from original Mini lovers but the new model has attracted a generation of new buyers with BMW chasing a leading place in the SUV sector where Nissan Qashqai and SEAT Ateca rule the roost.

The line-up of petrol and diesel engines is shared with the rest of the Mini range, and

most models of the Countryman are available with four-wheel drive and an automatic gearbox. Now there's even a plug-in hybrid version available and all- electric on the horizon.

As someone who drove Mini as a company car for many years I was a sceptic until I got behind the wheel of the Countryman but have to say I was quickly won over. The new model is obviously bigger but it's also a lot more expensive.

## Extras

The F60 Cooper D All4 Countryman on test was priced at £26,655 but a raft of extras pushed that up to £35,740 – slightly more than the £85 I parted with back in 1969.

Those extras included the media pack with navigation and Connected, Bluetooth, 18-inch alloys, leather steering wheel, heated seats, automatic air conditioning, LED foglights, a larger fuel tank, run flat tyres, electric door mirrors, powered boot lid, chrom interior and sun protection glass.

You also have to pay extra for roof lining, picnic bench and the sliding rear seat bench.

One of the neatest features is the protective padded covering which drops down when you use the boot – perfect for stopping those annoying scratches caused by cases or the golf bag.

The Countryman really is a practical family car with all the benefits of BMW quality inside a stunning cabin where things really have moved up a significant notch.

All cars apart from the hybrid come with a six-speed manual gearbox as standard, with the option of adding an auto box for extra cost



The Countryman really is a practical family car with all the benefits of BMW quality inside a stunning cabin

– the hybrid is auto as standard. In addition Mini's All4 four-wheel drive is available as an option across the range, although it's standard on the high-performance JCW model and the hybrid.

Wider tracking on this car helps improve handling and the All4 is as sure-footed as any Mini I have ever driven with a choice of driving modes ensuring an option to suit all driver needs. The ride was a bit harder than

expected but motorway cruising proved a real joy. This Countryman could well be the most controversial model to wear the famous badge but it's finding a whole new group of enthusiastic followers.

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# Kia's updated flagship premium Sorento SUV

By Carmel Stewart

Driving a Kia in Korea is a sure-fire way to fit in with the thousands of drivers rushing in and out of Seoul every day, as the vast majority show great brand loyalty by driving home-grown vehicles.

Many commuters favour the Kia Ray – a boxy little commuter special made solely for the Korean market. At the other end of the spectrum is the flagship Sorento SUV which puts Kia into the premium sector alongside the likes of the Audi Q5 and the Volvo XC60.

First introduced here in 2002, it does not have a huge road presence in the UK but is, nevertheless, always on the verge of breaking into the big time. A quality seven-seater, all-wheel-drive with a 2,500kg towing capacity, it is well able to hold its own among the Volvos and Land Rovers on the school run and rural rough stuff.

It has gone through a few incarnations over the years with the third-generation model being added in 2014. Each time sales have far exceeded expectations.

The new Sorento is what is called a 'product enhancement model'. It is based on the 2014 version but with a host of changes.

As with all Kias, its production has been overseen by two key players. Designer and president, Peter Schreyer, joined Kia in 2006 from Audi where he was responsible for the sleek and instantly recognisable



The Sorento is a quality seven-seater

Audi TT, among other vehicles. His designs have established a Kia family look and a more European appeal. Engineering expert, Albert Biermann, who joined the company from BMW in 2015, has added a more European set-up in terms of suspension, steering, and handling.

The net result is a well put together, good looking, stylish SUV with new grille, bumpers, lighting clusters and alloys, a spacious, comfortable interior, uncluttered dash and flexible seating which offers plenty of space for seven average sized occupants. Six-footers may struggle to get comfortable in the rearmost seats which pull out from the floor.

The excellent sat nav displayed on an eight-inch screen has clear maps and all the information required. It will only confound if set to Korean as this includes a warning baby squeak should you attempt to sneak over the designation speed limit. Given that UK vehicles will all give directions in English, the way forward should be clear and squeak free.

In keeping with other premium brands, Kia has incorporated hi-tech connectivity into the system so that full smartphone integration is achieved via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto with a wireless smartphone charger for charging while on the move.

Engine and transmission options are very straightforward – a 2.2litre diesel engine, married to either a six-speed manual transmission or an ultra-smooth eight-speed automatic which offers a choice of driving modes – Eco, Comfort, Sport and Smart – which drivers can select to suit their driving style and the conditions. Sorting out which is best for you is a matter of trial and error as changes to the steering response and power input are very subtle.

The real changes come with the new technologies which Kia has bunched together under its Drive Wise driver assistance package and include driver attention warning, which alerts the driver when he or she shows signs of drowsiness, plus lane keep assist and full LED headlamps with dynamic bending lights.

The 2018 Sorento, Mark 3:1 will be offered with trims KX 1, 2, plus the sporty GT Line and GT Line S replacing 3 and 4. The GT versions will inevitably up the ante both in price and aesthetics, adding LED fog lights, red brake callipers, a more prominent sill step and dual chrome exhaust. Inside, classy leather quilted seat and embroidered GT Line emblems together with satin chrome highlights add to the premium feel.

The new Sorento is due in the UK towards the end of this year. Pricing is expected to be in the £30,000 to £40,000 bracket if previous levels are anything to go by.



There's a more European set-up in terms of suspension, steering and handling

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60	Ford Focus Hatchback 1.6 Zetec Silver 60k	<b>£4,495</b>	14	Skoda Octavia Diesel 1.6 TDI CR Elegance Brown 42k	<b>£9,995</b>
64	Ford Grand C-max Diesel 1.6 TDCi Zetec Blue 41k	<b>£9,995</b>	14	Volvo V40 Diesel D2 Cross Country Lux Powershift Bronze 24k	<b>£11,295</b>
64	Ford S-max 1.6 TDCi Zetec [Start Stop] Silver 37k	<b>£11,295</b>	<div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Looking For Car Finance</div><div><b>We Are Here For You</b></div><div>We will help you explore a range of options Whatever your Circumstances</div><div><b>Call Us Now 01384 906030</b></div></div></div><div></div><div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>SCHEDULE YOUR Test Drive</div></div></div><div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>From</div><div><b>4.99%</b></div><div>Flat Rate / APR Variable</div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div>		
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Nissan					
64	Nissan Juke Diesel Hatchback 1.5 dCi Acenta Silver 14k	<b>£9,495</b>			
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## 3 Home & Services

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A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

## Oven Cleaning

AAA OVEN CLEANING. Ovens, Hobbs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

## Painters/Decorators



Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661  
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

C I PAINTING & DECORATING Over 30 yrs experience. City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

**LOVE 2 WALLPAPER**  
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painters & Decorators. Attention to detail, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken  
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www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

**CALL M & B DECORATORS**  
City & Guilds  
No job too small  
Free Quote  
01902 494555

## Plans Prepared

BUILDING Plans: Prepared/Submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

## Plastering

**AT PLASTERING & RENDERING**  
FREE quotes & all work guaranteed.  
07526 593701

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

## Plumbers

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers, Blockages 07976 012468

## Plumbing & Heating

**Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating**  
Full heating systems £2200 Boiler Changes £1100  
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.  
For Free Quotes Call: 01902 403823 07811 855231

## Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience. SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED. Free Quotes - Call Ric on: 07771 727119

**KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES**  
We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.  
Please call: 07966 281957

**A CHEAPER REMOVAL**  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL REMOVALS. FULLY INSURED. 7 days.  
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07807 77 30 35  
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## Roofing

**COMPTON ROOFING**  
Tiled, Slate, Flat. New and Repairs Ridge/Hip and Verges Re-bedded. Chimney rebuilding/repointing. Dry ridge and hip systems  
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**25% OFF SF ROOFING & GUTTERING**  
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE! Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing, guttering repaired and replaced. BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED  
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main, flat, felt, firestone rubber, fibreglass, all repointing, fascias, soffits, gutters. Free quotes. All quotes beaten. 8am-8pm.  
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## Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed, Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

## Skip Hire

**AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE**  
Mini, midi and large skips GRAB HIRE AND MINI DIGGER AVAILABLE  
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No Skips. We load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR. Est 35 years. 01384 232359.

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www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

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**CLASSIFIEDS BOOSTS BUSINESS!**



"I am very happy with my Express & Star and Chronicles Advertising Campaign, also by using the local directory on expressandstar.com we are seeing benefits from visitors to our website."

Gary Downes - Bilston Upholstery

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

4

## Pets & Animals

## Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

## Pets Corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:  
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.  
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

## GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated and microchipped. Call 01902 291080 or visit www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk  
f Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton  
@gtwolverhampton



## ROSEDENE RESCUE CENTRE

1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1LN. 01922 627013. Open Monday to Saturday 11am - 5pm. Sundays - Bank Holidays  
Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs).  
Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

## Guns & Dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

5

## Business & Farming

## Accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES For Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

## Commercial Premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

## Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6

## Property

## Accommodation To Let

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**SINGLE FLAT** suit mature Gent, refurbished throughout, all up to spec, Gornal area. £90 p/w. Call 0771 560357.

**SMART SINGLE ROOMS** in Shared house, Netherton. £85 p.w. inc. bills. No DSS. 2 weeks deposit. 07940 116130.

## Overseas Property

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT**

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## Properties Wanted


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 THE EASY WAY TO SELL YOUR HOUSE

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 Free Valuation? Yes! No Fees? Yes! Any Location? Yes!  
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Get your FREE, instant cash offer today!

 Call **01384 913 543**  
 or text "Cash" to 66777 [yeshomebuyers.com](http://yeshomebuyers.com)

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 Call **Paula 01384 467643**

We are not connected to any other advertiser

[www.webuyhouseswestmidlands.co.uk](http://www.webuyhouseswestmidlands.co.uk)

# 7

## Jobs

### Building & Construction

**PAINTERS & DECORATORS**  
 Required Direct, Subcontract, CSCS, Time-Served, immediate start. Tel: 01562 751197 / 07836 557894 Email info@pvc-ltd.co.uk

### Employment Wanted

**EXPERIENCED BRICK LAYER**  
 requires any type of brick work. 07341 021774.

Do you fancy a career change, have you ever thought of a career in care?

If so we may be able to help.

We provide residential care, supported living and domiciliary care for people who present with challenging behaviour patterns.

Our services based in the West Midlands area have the following vacancies at our residential and supported living homes based in the Wolverhampton, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Dudley and Coventry areas.

### SENIOR SUPPORT:

 Applicants should have 2 years minimum experience & NVQ level 3 or be working towards this qualification. **Salary £9.00 per hour.**

### SUPPORT WORKERS DAYS

 We currently have vacancies for daytime support workers, no experience is necessary as training will be provided. **Salary £8.00 per hour.**

 Send your CV to [beasupportworker.co.uk](mailto:beasupportworker.co.uk)

 King Charles I School  
 Comberton Road  
 Kidderminster DY10 1XA  
 Tel: 01562 512880

### ACHIEVEMENT ASSISTANT/KEY WORKER-YEAR 11: COMMUNICATION CENTRE

We are seeking to appoint an Achievement assistant/Key worker-Year 11: communication centre from 1st January 2018 to work within the communication centre and ensure the Year 11 students receive the level of support they require and make good progress. The communication centre caters for the needs of children who have autism, a language impairment and/or learning difficulties. The post is permanent, term time only plus the school training days (pro rata) and with a variable hours contract between 24-36 hours per week. Salary Scale TA2 (point range 14-17) plus the special needs allowance (pro rata).

King Charles I School is a well-resourced 11-18 school with a sixth form. Our students are enthusiastic, talented and keen to succeed. If you are too, we would like to hear from you.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

 Further information and an application form are available on the school website ([www.kingcharles1.worc.sch.uk](http://www.kingcharles1.worc.sch.uk)). The completed form should be emailed or posted to the school by 10.00am on Tuesday 28th November. We intend to interview on Friday 1st December.

**KING CHARLES I SCHOOL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER**

### Full Time General

**DO YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE?**  
**CAN YOU COMMUNICATE ON DIFFERENT LEVELS?**  
 Then take a look at our position of **RECRUITMENT AND INDUCTION OFFICER**. You will be responsible for ensuring that you liaise with young people, schools, apprenticeship providers, local authorities and other referral agents. The successful candidate should have a good understanding of the education system. A driving licence and access to a vehicle is essential for this role.

**Kidderminster area.**  
 Salary up to £26,500  
 CV to: [tracey.kuzemko@staffselectltd.co.uk](mailto:tracey.kuzemko@staffselectltd.co.uk)  
 or call **01902 364815**

### Part Time - General

**NEWSBOYS / GIRLS**  
 Wanted for delivering copies of Express & Star in

**NEWS DELIVERERS**  
 needed around the Tiled House Lane area of Brierley Hill. Please Contact **Customer Services on 0800 174 064**

# 8

## Motoring

### Cars Over £1500

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**BMW CONVERTIBLE 118D Sports plus Edition**  
 2013 reg., Alpine white, black leather interior, FBWWSH, 5yr service pack ends 2018, 41,750 miles, heated seats, DAB, Professional radio, Bluetooth, excellent condition, £12,500. Private Seller. Call 07817 019703.

**CITROEN XSARA PICASSO VTX**

2008, 43,000 miles, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, MoT, central locking, pas, CD, 1.6 16v petrol, very good condition.

**£1,699.**
**07879 403302.**

### PRESTIGE

**BMW X3 3.0 SD**  
 M Sport auto, 2008, silver with black leather, usual refinements, loads of history, totally pristine condition, 195k but looks and drives like 50k. **£5,995.**  
**07411 414284.**

**FORD FIESTA ZETEC**

2007, 57, 1.6TDCi, 64,000 miles, full service history, electric windows, electric mirrors, alarm, long MoT. Superb condition.

**£1,995.**
**01902 744023.**

**HONDA CIVIC**  
**VTEC SE, 2007, 1.8**

Petrol 88k miles, one owner, full service history, alloys, a/c, radio cd, great condition

**£2,795 ono**
**01902 850622.**

### EXCELLENT CONDITION

**MERCEDES C180**
**KOMPRESSOR**
**ADVANTAGE SE**

2006, 1.8 petrol, MoT till March, 33,000 miles, good condition.

**£3,950.**
**07976 284351.**

**PEUGEOT 206CC ALLURE**  
 2005, 55 plate, 46,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, full service history, alarm, MoT. Superb condition.

**£1,695.**
**01902 744023.**

### BARGAIN

**PEUGEOT 207**
**1.6 HDI SPORT**

2010, 5dr,

71k miles, excellent condition, very economical,

**£30 road tax.**
**£2,350.**
**07976 359922.**

**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE**

2012, 38,000 miles, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, long MoT, cruise control, Navigation System, half leather.

**£2,699 ono.**
**07879 403302.**

**RENAULT TWINGO PZAZ**  
 2011, 17,400 miles, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, fsh, MoT, central locking, pas, CD, very good condition. **£2,299.**  
**07879 403302.**

**VOLKSWAGEN FOX 1.2**  
 Three door. Hatchback. 2010 (60 reg). Red. Petrol.

Manual. MoT November 2018. Insurance Group 1. 66,000 miles.

Two keys. Excellent condition.

**£2,095 ono.**
**07871 521216.**

### Cars Under £1500


**CITROEN XSARA PICASSO**

2007, 71,000 miles, new MoT, lovely condition, s/h.

**£1,200 ono.**
**07572 554829.**

### BARGAIN

**FORD FOCUS**
**1.8 DIESEL**

Silver, 2005, 115k miles, 12 months MoT, service history, recently serviced, good clean condition inside and out.

**£950 ono.**
**07979 472572.**

**FORD MONDEO**

2005, 107,000 miles, silver, alarm, long MoT, central locking.

**£380 ono.**
**07804 629130.**

### EXCELLENT CONDITION

**PEUGEOT 207**
**3dr Sport 1.6**

2007, metallic grey, 2 former keepers, 73,000 miles, air con, CL, alloy wheels, PAS.

MoT until April 18, Any trial.

**£1,375.**
**07923 132859.**

### BARGAIN

**PEUGEOT 406**
**DIESEL ESTATE 7 SEATER**

2003 reg.

5 months MoT.

Very good condition inside and out.

**£500.**
**07837 505156.**

### GOOD RUNNER

**PEUGEOT 407 ESTATE**

2006 Diesel, MoT till May 23, 2018, excellent condition, excellent runner, electric sunroof and wing mirrors, well maintained, low road tax on this model, genuine reason for sale.

**£1,300 ono.**
**07539 768236.**

**PROTON SATRIA NEO**

2011, GSX model, 40,000 miles, one lady owner, service history, receipts, old MoT's, Alpine CD player, air con, parking sensors, pas, e/w, c/l, alloys, rear spoiler.

**£875 ono.**
**07946 835467.**

### BARGAIN

**RENAULT CLIO**

July 2002,

1200cc

MoT October 2018.

Recent full service with new parts.

**£495 ovno.**
**01902 829438.**

### BARGAIN

**ROVER 75**

2002 reg, V6, 2.5,

automatic, antique gold,

12 months MoT,

just had full service

**£750 ono.**
**07732 820368.**

### MUST BE SEEN

**VAUXHALL MERIVA**

04 plate, low miles, 52,000, excellent throughout, full MoT, service history.

**£850 ono.**
**07972 169554.**

**VAXUHALL CORSA 1200**

2005, 40,000 Miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, alarm, 12 months MoT, CD, petrol, good condition, area Blackheath

**£590**
**07733 536832.**

### Classic Cars


**MGB GT**

1973, mallard green, 37,000 miles, good bodywork and interior, lots of parts replaced, ring for details.

 Fully serviced and MoT. Offers over £3,250. **07988 492615.**
**WANTED, CLASSIC Car.** Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.

01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

### Driving Tuition

**AMAZING OFFER** 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80. £20 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

### Scrap Vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**MCB**  
**TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS**  
**Tel: 01902 408176**  
**1000's of parts available at all times**  
**MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ**
**ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT**  
 Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available  
**0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.**  
 Oldbury Area.

**A BETTER PRICE** for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale. **NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD**  
 Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DVS 3JZ.

### Accessories & Services

**FOR SALE** Registration number RNT 97. £850. Assignment fee already paid. 01902 678398.

### Clutches/Brakes/Gearboxes

### A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

Renault Scenic, Vauxhall Zafira, Renault Clio, Ford Focus &amp; KA and MANY MORE!! Ring for quotes

**30 yrs experience ALL AREAS COVERED**
**Call Bob 01384 251328 07972 169554 anytime**

### Spares/Parts

**WINTER SALE** Thule Roof Bars and Spares. Wolves Hire 01902 746723 WV6 0LE

### Tyres/Wheels/Exhausts

**ALLOY WHEELS** x 4, with nearly new winter tyres, to fit MGZT. £175. 07732 820368.

**FOUR WINTER** tyres, Goodyear Ultra, 245 x 40 x 18v, minimum tread 6.5mm, S type Jag. £150. 01902 674453.

### Vehicles Wanted

**CROWN MOTORS** guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

### BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

**01902 317878**
**ClassifiedAds**

# 9

## Local Information

### Public Notices

### LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

**Marie Hogg on 01902 713146**  
 or email [marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk)

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

### HAZEL ANN LOWE (Deceased)

 Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 39 Ridge Road Kingswinford DY6 9RB, who died on 17/08/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 28/01/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice. **WALDRON SOLICITORS**  
 813 High Street Kingswinford DY6 8AD

# 10

## Personals

### Personal

**SINCERE CARING GAY LADY**  
 60's, young outlook. Seeks new Friends. Box Number P21008, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

### Sports Clubs

**TIVIDALE FOOTBALL ACADEMY U11'S PLAYERS NEEDED**  
 to play in Midland Junior Premier League. Must be committed and experienced to play at a high level. Saturday Morning League, 10.30am kick off. Good facilities based at Old Hill with away matches around the Midlands. Please contact **Jordan 07501 378878 or Tom on 07944 077802.**

## FreeAds

# IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

 \*Advertise any item **FREE** up to the value of **£250** go to: [bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

Simply click the FreeAds icon

**FreeAds**

\*Private advertisers only, no guns, pets, or livestock. Free adverts are published within 7 days of receipt, in-paper and online and are limited to 3 lines maximum.



# Express & Star DATING

**YOUR regional dating service**, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR region**



Dates in **YOUR** region

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To **Place** your advert call: To **Place** your ad by text

**0844 381 5936**

follow the simple instructions. You will also get **£10 SMS CHAT CREDIT**

Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098** **FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

**YOU** can now **Date ONLINE** or via your mobile just visit:

**http://dating.expressandstar.com**

To **Reply** to members call:

**0906 500 3955**

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do **key-it-in promptly** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To **Reply** by text:

**Text... REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26 123456 hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Been left a message? **Pickup** your replies on:

**0906 500 3957**

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

**THE** biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet **you.. visit..** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

## Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**JAN 47**, once bitten twice shy! Just looking for not complicated fun times. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. Any age/looks/status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429453

**AMANDA**, 36yrs, attractive lady. Solvent and well educated and spoken. Feminine figure with large breasts. Hoping to meet a broad-minded gent, any age for discreet relationship. I don't mind if you are married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box: 429287

**DEBBIE** 38, fit size 12, discreet, WLTM intelligent man for fun relationship with no ties. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429417

**YAZ**, Asian lady, 32yrs, very slim and pretty. Hoping to meet a strong minded, dominant, resourceful man. Mature please 45+ Text Only. Box: 4177148

**VARIE**, attractive early 40s brunette, size 10, varied interests. WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429401

**SOPHIE**, 46yrs, attractive professional lady with time on her hands. Hoping to meet a nice gent of any age, text fun, flirt, possible meeting. Text Only. Box: 4126579

**MARGARET 42**, busty chubby female WLTM Muslim men, Pakistani, Kurdish or Indian welcome, daytime/evening, no strings. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5838907

**SARAH** black lady, works as a nurse. 48yrs young, hoping to meet a younger man for some fun. Let me be your couger and dress me up in my uniform. Text Only. Box: 4166063

**SARAH 35**, recently divorced, slim 5ft 7ins, pretty, seeks male up to 50yrs for meals out hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429385

**MELANIE**, attractive lady, 38yrs, hoping to meet a nice chap, any age, for chats, not complicated times. Must have great shoo, looks unimportant. Text Only. Box: 4037147

**JACKIE 40**, slim easygoing blonde, works too hard, needs sincere male to help live up her free time. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429381

I am a discreet married black lady who is hoping to meet a man of any colour for some daytime chats, maybe meet up, maybe just text to prolong the interest in our ways. Text Only. Box: 4063856

**TAMMY**, sincere mature lady, easygoing animal lover. Loves travel, eating out etc. Call me if you are interested in a chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429333

**GEORGINA**, 46yrs, sophisticated professional lady (teacher), quite firm but kind! Interested in finding out more? I am interested to chat to you go call me today. Text Only. Box: 4151593

**PAMELA**, mature presentable lady, well educated, solvent, very young at heart. Hoping to meet presentable gent. Call me. Or text if you prefer. I promise to get back to you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429329

**ANGELA**, 48yrs, seeks no strings casual fun. I have my own house, car and am solvent. I'm busty with a firm figure. You must be open minded, age/status unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 427633

**ATTRACTIVE** widowed lady, 70yrs but looks much much younger. GSOH, fun loving. WLTM man 67+ for loving tender relationship. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429327

**MARIELE**, 45yrs, curvy attractive lady, likes older men. I'm married so you must be discreet. Lets meet up, and make each other smile again. Call me and lets get to know each other. Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 426853

**LINDA**, late 50s lady, promises to call you some day if you text or call. She's attractive and waiting to meet you. You must be 40+ with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429325

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box: 419673

**RACHAEL**, 44yrs, loves life, varied interests, GSOH, kind and attractive. Seeks similar male of any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429323

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

**LISA**, 50yrs, curvy honey blonde lady. Loves life. Hoping to meet a kind gent of any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429321

**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box: 421375

### KEEP DATING SIMPLE!

- NO PROFILES TO FILL OUT
- NO APPS TO DOWNLOAD
- NO CREDIT CARDS

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**CAROLE** Ann, 56, sensitive, slim, fun loving brunette, loves to cook for her man, seeks tall, handsome male for a tactile relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428891

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**MATURE**, oriental female sought by easygoing male, 73, for NSA friendship. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6117412

**AMATEUR** photographer, single, seeking bored broad-minded lady to have some discreet fun with a camera. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6109888

100% genuine, good looking blue eyed guy, 40s, looking to meet a black or mixed race lady, for romance and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428913

64 year old male, WLTM a lady between 60-75, for friendship and outings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419929

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## Knockout night with boxing champ Fury

BOXING fans can enjoy a knockout night as Tyson Fury makes his debut appearance in Wolverhampton for an audience with fans.

The 'Turkey & Tinsel with Tyson' takes place on December 13 at the Ramada Park Hall Hotel. The former unified heavyweight champion of the world will share his personal story – live and unscripted on stage, interviewed by Gareth A Davis.

He will answer questions from the audience, with the festive evening also featuring a mix of top entertainment, red carpet drinks reception, memorabilia auction and Christmas meal.

Tickets start at £55, rising to £85 for a silver package and £150 for gold, which includes a picture with Fury. For the full VIP experience at £200 guests can also enjoy a VIP meet and greet, a prime table location and a signed glove.

Fundraising will be in aid of Foundation DB set up by Wolves captain Danny Bath. Tickets are being sold at [www.tysonfury.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.tysonfury.eventbrite.co.uk)

## Pitching in for work on new 3G surface

A NEW 3G pitch is to be launched at Dudley's Dell Stadium. The modern playing surface will replace the existing 18-year-old artificial grass pitch.

The work, part of Dudley council's playing pitch strategy, began on Monday and should take around 12 weeks to complete. The project was developed in partnership with Sport England and the Football Association.

The £660,000 cost will be made up of £550,000 funding through The FA, The Football Foundation and £110,000 from Dudley Council.

Existing users of the facility have been temporarily relocated to other sites in the borough and the Saturday morning ParkRun has been suspended for the duration of the works.

This investment is in addition to the council's commitment to invest £22m in the wider leisure service which includes plans for a new leisure centre in Dudley, as well as refurbishing and modernising the existing leisure centres in Halesowen and Stourbridge. Booking enquiries should be made to Steve Gay, area manager, at [steve.gay@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:steve.gay@dudley.gov.uk)

## Greats turn out for former team-mate

MIDLAND footballing greats came together to help raise funds for former Albion and Villa goalkeeper Derek Dudley, who is suffering from a terminal illness. The 47-year-old contracted a serious liver condition and it was his final wish to bring former friends from the footballing world together for a final game. It was staged on Sunday at Sutton Coldfield Town FC's home ground where a number of former players were watched by a large crowd.

Dudley, who spent four years at Villa, lives in Rugeley with his wife Helen and children Daniel, 13, and Elizabeth, 11.

His bucket list includes having a nice meal with his children and getting the 'lads' together for one last game.

He was joined by members of Villa's 1982 European Cup winning side including Peter Withe, Tony Morley and Gordon Cowans as well former Baggies team-mates including Daryl Burgess and Darren Bradley.

When his football career ended, Derek became a teacher, including a spell at The Brades Lodge school in Tividale.



A picture captures the impact as Jeff Astle heads the ball



Chris in his later years, still a favourite with the crowds at the Saddlers

# Ex-Walsall boss Chris tells of memory fears

**FORMER** Walsall manager and Villa captain Chris Nicholl has said he no longer remembers where he lives – due to brain damage caused by years of heading footballs.

The 71-year-old, who still lives in the West Midlands, has said his condition is continuing to get worse. The Northern Ireland international won two League Cups with Villa in the 1970s, famously netting a long-range stunner in the 1977 final against Everton.

After he retired from playing, Nicholl led Walsall to promotion from Division Three in 1995 during a three-year stint as manager.

He spoke to former England striker Alan Shearer as part of a BBC documentary investigating links between dementia and heading footballs.

Nicholl said: "I am brain-damaged from heading footballs. My memory is in trouble. Everyone forgets regular things, where your keys are."

"But when you forget where you live, that's different. I've had that for the last four or five years, it is definitely getting worse. It bothers me."

### Degenerative

Nicholl is among a string of former pros – including Albion legend Jeff Astle – to have been struck down after their playing days have ended.

Astle died in 2002 aged just 59 from chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain disease caused by heading. His family have been campaigning for years to get the Football Association and FIFA to conduct research into heading.

Shearer, who made his top-flight debut as a teenager under Nicholl at Southampton, said: "It was tough to see the way Chris is now, because he gave me my debut."

"He had me heading 100 or 150 balls a day to improve, but he did it for the right reasons."

Shearer, 47, had scans and tests to examine how heading the ball affected him, amid fears he has sustained long-term damage.

The results were revealed on the show, Alan Shearer, Dementia, Football and Me, which was first shown on



Alan Shearer, who fears he may be susceptible to dementia after heading the ball throughout his football career

## SPORTING FEATURE

By David Cosgrove

BBC1 on Sunday, November 12 at 10.30pm and is available on the BBC iPlayer. The Match of the Day pundit said: "Nowhere near enough research has been done. The authorities have been very reluctant to find out any answers. They have swept it under the carpet, which is not good enough."

Experts suspected heading footballs may cause

brain damage and dementia for decades but a firm link was not made until the inquest into Astle's death.

A coroner found he died from a form of dementia called CTE, known as boxer's brain, caused by heading footballs.

In the 15 years since, neither the Football Association nor international body FIFA have funded any meaningful research into the dangers of heading footballs. FA medical director Charlotte Cowie said the FA were looking to study former professional footballers to get results as quickly as possible.



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## Glassboys fail to make up ground

Shaw Lane 3 Stourbridge 1

STOURBRIDGE had a torrid time at Shaw Lane as their attempts to gain ground on their fellow Evo-Stik Premier promotion chasers came to nothing.

Glassboys were without the suspended Stuart Pierpoint and Aaron Forde and things were always going to be difficult against the managerless South Yorkshire side.

Things could have possibly been different had the home side been reduced to 10 men after Ryan Qualter made contact with Kyle Perry's face in an off-the-ball incident on 10 minutes.

But Qualter escaped with a yellow and things got worse for Stourbridge 10 minutes later when Paul McCone brought down Chib Chilaka in the penalty area and Spencer Harris converted the penalty.

The Glassboys' defence could do little about Harris's strike for his second goal on 25 minutes, a rasping drive beyond goalkeeper Matt Gould.

Alex Byrne almost made it three just before half-time, but saw his shot go just over the bar. Luke Shearer had Stourbridge's first shot of the game just after the break, but Jon Stewart in the Shaw Lane goal saved well.

On 56 minutes it was three as Byrne was given time and space on the edge of the Stourbridge box to deliver a cross on to the head of unmarked Chilaka who easily scored.

There was then a 15-minute delay to find a replacement assistant referee.

This seemed to do Stourbridge good as shortly after Luke Benbow got a goal back with an excellent volley, continuing his good form since returning to Amblecote.

## Yeltz head for point with debutant's goal

Halesowen Town 1 Marine 1

MIDFIELDER Ivor Lawton marked his full Halesowen debut with a late equaliser to earn the Yeltz a vital point against relegation rivals Marine.

And boss John Hill said there will be more to come from the former Coventry City midfielder.

"He is short of match fitness and we've worked him hard in training this week," Hill said. "But the one thing for sure is that Ivor will get fitter and stronger."

Halesowen were guilty of missing a string of first-half chances, while visiting skipper Dany Mitchley was twice denied by Yeltz keeper Dan Platt.

After an impressive opening 45 minutes, Yeltz struggled after the break and fell behind on 69 minutes when James Murray sent a delightful chip over the head of Platt from the edge of the area.

The goal spurred Hill's side on in search of an equaliser and it came six minutes from the end. Udoh saw his shot deflected past the post and Lawson headed home from the resulting corner.

## Spaniard in the works for title bout

RICKY Summers has vowed to take out his frustration on new opponent Romero Gonzalo this weekend.

The Tipton light heavyweight was set to face Coventry's Joe Sherriff for the vacant Midlands Area Light Heavyweight Title on Saturday but illness has forced his opponent out and Summers will now face Spanish opposition at the top of BCB Promotions' show at the Imperial Banqueting Suite, Bilston.

The 30 year-old knows patience is a virtue after waiting for his chance to battle Frank Buglioni

for the British Title last time out. That fight was postponed for a number of months after Buglioni, who went on to claim a points victory, suffered a cut in sparring.

Summers though, frustrated by Sherriff's late pull out, is ready to put in a career-best performance against Gonzalo next weekend.

"The only word to sum it up is frustration," he explained. "I'm ready to take my frustrations out on him and blow him out the water."

Meanwhile Rowley Regis' Jason Welborn lines up for his 28th bout having seen his year stalled

since a one-sided points victory over the unbeaten Marcus Morrison live on Sky in March.

Success at Morrison's expense earned him the WBC International Silver middleweight title and he's also been a Midlands champion at two weights. Two attempts to claim British honours were unsuccessful but Welborn is not giving up on his dream of getting his hands on a Lonsdale belt. Black Country boys James Beech Jr and debutant Antony Woolley also feature. Tickets are £35, or £40 on the night, via the boxers on Facebook or at iboxingtickets.com

# SOUR END TO DERBY CLASH

DK 24 Old Halesonians 31

**THE North Midlands Cup games allow coaching staffs to have a level of experimentation within a competitive match scenario.**

One thing became obvious after the opening moments of this game, however, is that it meant something to both teams, who were certainly going for it.

In the opening quarter Old Hales had scored two tries and were looking comfortable in the lead at 12-0.

DK almost reduced the gap when Stef Shillingford was hauled down just short of the line after breaking the defence following a well worked scissors with Duncan Tompkins. Moments later Luke Trevis was stopped just short in the clubhouse corner.

### Edging

DK were slowly edging back into the game, and should have probably closed the gap but for poor handling. On 24 minutes they were on the scoreboard as Trevis set up Nic Adams with a clear run to the corner.

But Hales hit back, with a converted try following a lineup in the Wanderers corner.

Things got worse for DK when Old Hales took a full seven points following a pushover try, with what proved to be the last play of the half.

Things did not get better for DK in the first 15 minutes of the second half as Old Hales scored a try to stretch their lead to 31-5.

DK were denied five points when Connah Jones knocked on, but did score through Arran Hudson, with the conversion attempt from Sam Vaughan striking the crossbar.

The momentum of the game was changing and Trevis spouted clear for a try, converted, and Jones saw the defence part to allow him to score under the posts - 31-24.

With five minutes to go and both sides in the contest, Trevis was injured by a bad tackle, ending the game on a sour note.

## Rapid rise for roaring Lions



Sedgley White Lions, with team captain Bohdi Shields, aged nine

A JUNIOR football team has been promoted from the bottom to the top division mid-season - after being left without a pitch to train on at the start of the campaign.

Sedgley White Lions under-9s, formed in the summer by Paul Shields and Paul Timmins, have, in 21 games, scored 228 goals and conceded just 10, with league bosses deciding to move them up after a mid-season reshuffle.

Yet at the start of the season they were left without a pitch, after being refused to use Bantock Park by Wolverhampton Council. Woodfield School agreed to accommodate the

side, which features three sets of twins - and they have not looked back since. Having begun life in division five of the Stourbridge and District Youth League, the side tasted immediate success, prompting officials to re-evaluate the league and place them in division one.

They have also been included in the West Midlands Junior Champions League and have qualified to the next round.

A spokesman said: "This is made possible by a brilliant bunch of boys who respond with fantastic discipline to the tactics, training and support of their coaches."

## Marathon gentleman of Verona

THERE was more cross country action for Dudley Kingswinford Running Club as a small group travelled to Bullwell Hall, Nottingham, for the Midlands 7 for the men and 5 for the ladies.

Away from the league action this was more of a cup game for the blue hoops.

In a competition open to entrants from the Midlands region DK were racing against the likes of Notts AC, Hermitage Harriers, Ilkeston RC and Beeston AC along the usual Black Country heavyweights of Tipton Harriers and Wolverhampton & Bilston.

With six to count as a team for the men and four for the ladies it was a disappointing turnout with both genders failing to field a full team. Those that did run were able to take part as individuals.

The ladies were off first over a five-mile, three-lap course around relatively flat and dry parkland. After chasing the leaders Helen Tromans finished 14th in 35.49 and Hannah McGuire came home in 40.45 in 36th place.

The men raced over a seven-mile course over four laps. Dave Norman was first back for the club in 87th place in 45.36, Graham Wildgoose was 119th in 50.42, Andy Weaver 126th in 51.25 and Richard Jones stopped the clock in 52.39 to take 133rd.

Roger Beddard took part in the Verona Marathon after doubting whether he would make it. Emergency treatment on a hamstring injury and a late fitness test got him to the start line, all he had to do was finish. And he did - in 4.36.15.

## Lasting memorial to cricketing greats

A LASTING memorial commemorating the lives of much-loved cricketing father and son has been unveiled.

The bronze busts of Worcestershire County Cricket Club father and son Basil and Damian D'Oliveira was unveiled by Naomi and Tracey D'Oliveira, widows of the two men, at The D'Oliveira Foundations Annual Gala Dinner.

The solid bronze busts, which have been three years in the design and manufacture, were created by renowned sports sculptor John McKenna at a cost of almost £15,000 most of which was raised from a sponsored walk from Worcester to Cardiff in 2014.

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